



NEW MEXICO CHILDREN'S CABINET



2024 SESSION REPORT



Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

As Director of the Children's Cabinet, I'm coming to you proud of the work done by the New Mexico Children's Cabinet to improve child and family well-being in New Mexico.

This booklet provides a snapshot of where we are as an Administration on the Governor's commitment to the health, education, and economic well-being of children and families through programs that impact New Mexicans, from prenatal to adulthood. In addition to the reported fiscal spending, outcome metrics, and recent accomplishments of the Administration provided in this document, we have included an overview of our children/family-focused legislative and budget priorities for the 2024 Legislative Session.

The work of the New Mexico Children's Cabinet is crucial to the future of our state, and I'm so pleased we are continuing to fulfill our promises. With your support this Session, more can be accomplished for New Mexico's children and families.

Sincerely,

Mariana Padilla
Director, New Mexico Children's Cabinet

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

EXECUTIVE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Gun Safety Package

We are prioritizing gun legislation in New Mexico to effectively combat and reduce gun violence. Our aim is to enhance community safety by implementing measures that hold violent criminals accountable, ultimately working towards creating a safer environment for all residents in the state.

- **HB 27** — Amending the Extreme Risk Firearms Protection Order Act: to provide an expedited process where orders are issued 24-7 via an on-call judge and includes a requirement of immediate relinquishment of firearms upon service of an order.
- **HB 127** — Age 21 for Firearm Purchases: Raising the age to purchase automatic firearms to 21 from the current minimum age of 18.
- **HB 137** — Assault Weapons Ban: Regulates the manufacture, possession, and sale of weapons of war, the gun most often used in mass casualty events.
- **HB 198** — Felons in Possession of Firearms: Increases the criminal penalty for felons found to be in possession of guns, making it a 2nd degree felony.
- **SB 205** — Prohibiting guns in parks and playgrounds: Makes it illegal to carry a firearm in county or municipal parks, playgrounds, and their accompanying parking lots.

Public Safety

We are enacting measures to protect young New Mexicans by strengthening the criminal code for human trafficking and child exploitation and making hazing on college and school campuses a crime.

- **HB 116** – Human Trafficking & Exploitation Crimes: Removes the time limit for prosecuting human trafficking, increases the age for sexual exploitation of children by prostitution to eighteen, and adds victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children to the victims of crime act.
- **HB 223** – Creating the Crime of Hazing: Makes incidents of hazing against current and prospective students in higher education and K-12 schools a misdemeanor and makes aggravated hazing a fourth-degree felony. Also establishes a reporting portal for victims to report incidents anonymously.

Addressing Homelessness & Housing Insecurity

We are establishing a statewide strategy to address housing needs, providing funding and technical support to communities at the local and tribal level.

- **SB 71** – Creating an Office of Housing: Creates the Office of Housing at the Department of Finance and Administration to coordinate housing efforts statewide, create a statewide housing plan, and provide technical assistance to local and tribal governments on housing efforts.
- **HB 195** – Expanding the Opportunity Enterprise Revolving Fund: Allows the New Mexico Finance Authority to Provide Housing Development Loans and creates the Housing Development Revolving Fund.

Emissions Reduction & Clean Cars

Our forward-thinking measures underscore a commitment to environmental stewardship and the pursuit of innovative solutions to address climate challenges.

- **HB 133** – Oil & Gas Act Changes: Authorizes conversion of oil and gas wells for energy storage and geothermal development, increasing fees and financial assurance for operating oil and gas wells, and requiring the capture of 98 percent of natural gas produced beginning in 2027.
- **HB 41** – Clean Transportation Fuel Standards: Authorizes the Environmental Improvement Board to adopt rules to establish and assess fees for a clean transportation fuel standard.

Education

New Mexico is strengthening high school graduation requirements to ensure that students are adequately prepared for higher education opportunities, the workforce, and adult life.

- **HB 171** – High School Graduation Requirements: Updates high school graduation requirements, including additional units in core subject areas, the development of graduate profiles, and allows career technical education (CTE) and work-based learning to count toward core academic requirements for students starting ninth grade during the 2025-2026 school year.

CHILDREN'S CABINET BUDGET PRIORITIES

Education

The Governor's education budget prioritizes student success from early childhood to higher education, with a focus on literacy instruction, increasing student instructional time, expanding investments in early childhood education, and increasing funding for the Opportunity Scholarship.

- **Improving Outcomes in Literacy** implementing structured literacy statewide by creating a statewide literacy institute, expanded teacher training, and launching a robust summer literacy program will ensure all students can read to the best of their ability.
 - *\$28.7M for structured literacy to improve statewide literacy rates through specialized training and instruction.*
 - *\$30M to create the New Mexico Structured Literacy Institute.*
 - *\$30M for summer reading intervention for 10,000 K-12 students.*
- **Investments in Cradle to Career Education**
- **\$101M to increase the minimum number of school days for students.**
- **\$40M from the Early Childhood Trust Fund** to continue assistance eligibility at 400% of the Federal Poverty Line, to continue educator pay increases and restructured copayments.
- **\$35M to add 2,000 infant and toddler childcare slots** across the state.
- **\$33M to expand early prekindergarten by 1,380 slots.**
- **\$20M to expand prekindergarten quality supports**, providing assistance and classroom training for early childhood educators.
- **An \$11.9M increase for the Opportunity Scholarship.**
- **\$6M to the Attendance for Success Initiative** to improve K-12 attendance and address chronic absenteeism.
- **\$94.5m for 3% pay increases** for all K-12 educational personnel.

Health Care, Behavioral Health, & Child Well-Being

The Governor's budget sustains investments in programs with a track record of success, such as the Rural Healthcare Delivery Fund, and expands funding for initiatives aimed at the most vulnerable New Mexicans.

- **\$100M for the Rural Healthcare Delivery Fund**
- **\$24.7M to create a new Family Services Division at CYFD**, improving services to more than 2,100 families.
- **\$20.8 M to expand SNAP** and increase the elderly & disabled household benefit to **\$125 per month.**
- **\$17.2 M to grandparents raising grandchildren.**
- **\$11.5M to increase Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** eligibility to 90% of the Federal Poverty Line.

- **\$5.9 M for the 988 Crisis Now hotline** to extend its reach and impact through mobile crisis teams and crisis triage centers.

Healthy Environment

The executive budget recommendation supports the state's transition to renewable energy and preserves New Mexico's natural resources while driving our economy.

- **\$500M over two fiscal years to create the Strategic Water Supply**, supporting the state's transition to renewable energy.
- **\$250M to the Conservation Legacy Permanent Fund** for forest and watershed conservation, for healthy soils, and outdoor recreation initiatives.

Housing and Homelessness

The Governor's budget addresses the pressing needs of homeless and housing insecure New Mexicans via direct assistance programs for both children and adults.

- **\$540M across two funds** to help provide direct assistance for renters, homeowners, and people experiencing homelessness.
- **\$6.6M in ongoing funding for the Fostering Connections program** to support youth who are aging out of foster care.
- **\$1M for K-12 students experiencing homelessness.**

Public Safety

Ensuring safety for all New Mexicans and full accountability for violent offenders is a top priority of Governor Lujan Grisham. Through comprehensive funding for law enforcement, firefighter, and EMT recruitment in addition to increased funding for the District Attorney, the budget provides necessary resources for public safety.

- **\$35M for Corrections and Law Enforcement Recruitment**
- **\$35M to the Firefighter and EMT Recruitment Fund** to ensure rapid response to fires.
- **\$7M increase to the New Mexico District Attorney's Office** to ensure swift accountability of offenders and effective prosecutions.

Economic Development

The Governor's budget invests in gainful employment for New Mexicans and supports growth of state and local businesses.

- **\$34.7M across the Local Economic Development Act Program** and the Job Training Incentive Program to continue growing businesses and professional opportunities. the 2025-2026 school year.

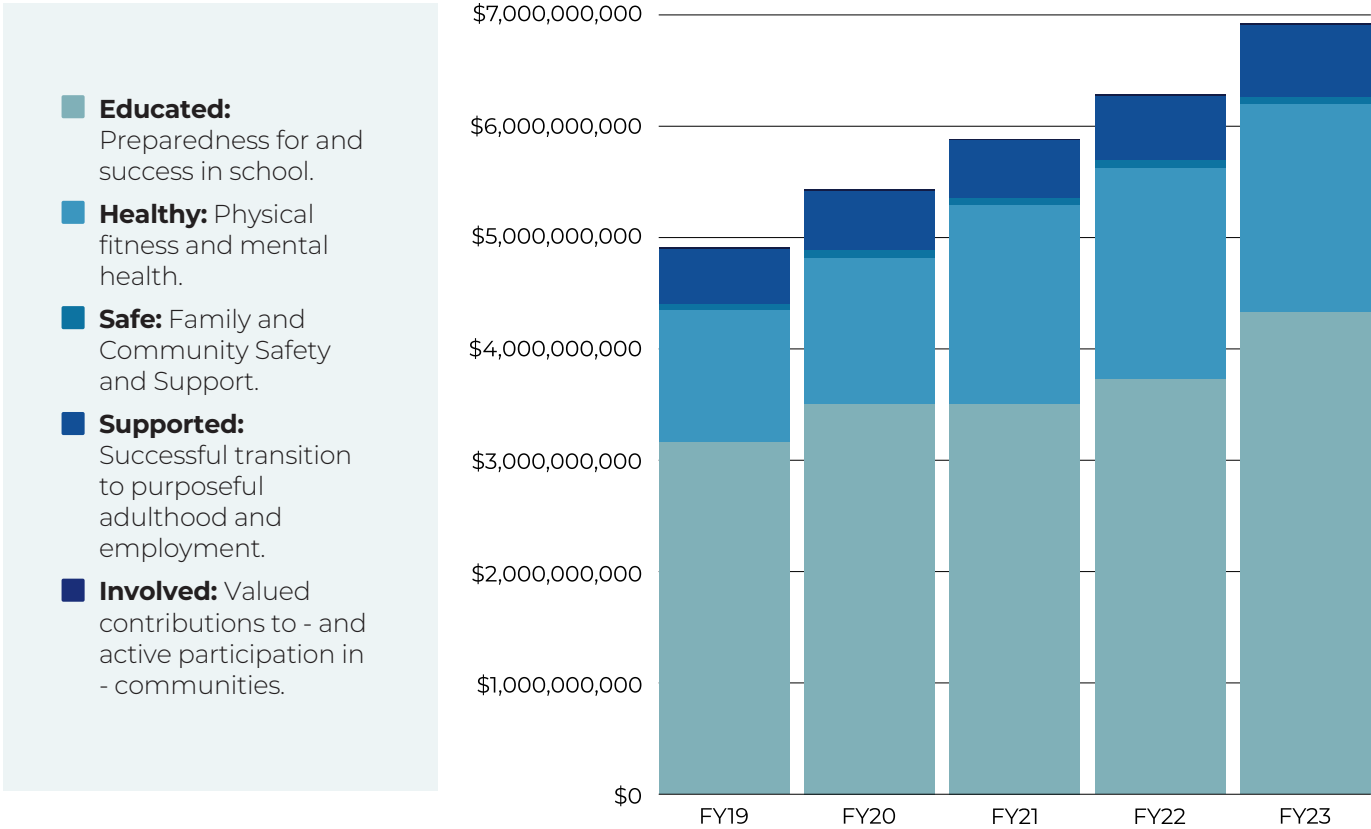


Children’s Cabinet Outcomes

Overall Spending by Outcome At-a-Glance

Primary Outcome	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Educated	\$3,168,810,723.98	\$3,506,326,097.81	\$3,504,101,353.91	\$3,732,039,726.36	\$4,337,385,392.90
Healthy	\$1,179,553,933.29	\$1,314,542,825.83	\$1,785,471,742.52	\$1,896,050,911.65	\$1,863,828,026.05
Safe	\$57,919,035.00	\$67,729,936.00	\$69,053,109.00	\$67,494,394.00	\$67,301,082.17
Supported	\$498,317,764.26	\$534,930,354.01	\$516,328,358.86	\$581,976,721.27	\$639,525,498.73
Involved	\$11,563,250.00	\$10,585,956.00	\$8,439,661.6	\$11,292,355.00	\$12,262,898.45
Grand Total	\$4,916,164,706.53	\$5,434,115,169.65	\$5,883,394,225.89	\$6,288,854,108.28	\$6,920,302,898.30

Overall Spending by Outcome At-a-Glance



Educated

Preparedness for and success in school.

NM PreK: The largest-ever expansion in New Mexico PreK programs will increase students served by more than 3,000, 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: On the heels of increased reading proficiencies for the state's 3rd-8th Graders, the Science of Reading is being implemented at all levels of learning. ECECD began implementing LETRS-EC, a version of structured literacy tailored to the youngest learners, during School Year 2019-20. PED launched a state-wide structured literacy initiative in the 2020-2021 school year and has 9,000 educators and staff enrolled in training. HED funds 18 adult literacy and 26 adult education programs statewide that teach essential literacy skills to adults. The Governor has also announced plans for a \$30m literacy institute focused on improving literacy skills across the board.

Healthy, Universal School Meals: While New Mexico has seen nationally leading decreases in food insecurity rates in recent years, too many New Mexico children continue to have irregular access to high quality, healthy food. For more than 80% of school-age children in



Scan to view the Food Initiative Dashboard

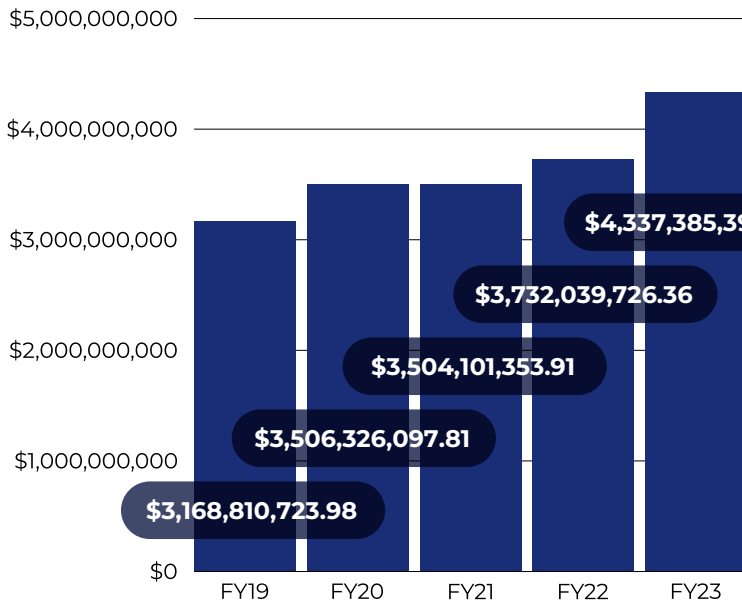
New Mexico, school breakfast and school lunch provide as much as half of their daily calories; by taking students' minds off their stomachs, they are more prepared to learn. More than 300,000 students statewide are now guaranteed no-cost access to healthy, high-quality meals no matter their income or circumstance.

Community Schools: The Community Schools grant programs now includes well over 100 schools all over New Mexico. Many schools have been able to meet the needs of their students by partnering with local nonprofits, businesses, and community members to provide resources & educational enhancement to students.

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: Over 110,000 New Mexicans are pursuing career training certificates, associate, bachelor's and graduate degrees at state public and tribal colleges and universities, an increase of 2.3 percent over last year. Over 11,000 New Mexicans are pursuing higher education for the first time and as full-time students. Since the enactment of the Opportunity Scholarship Act in 2022, New Mexico has enrolled an additional 6,700 students, a nearly 7 percent enrollment increase over the last two years.

Total Spending Trend by Educated Outcome

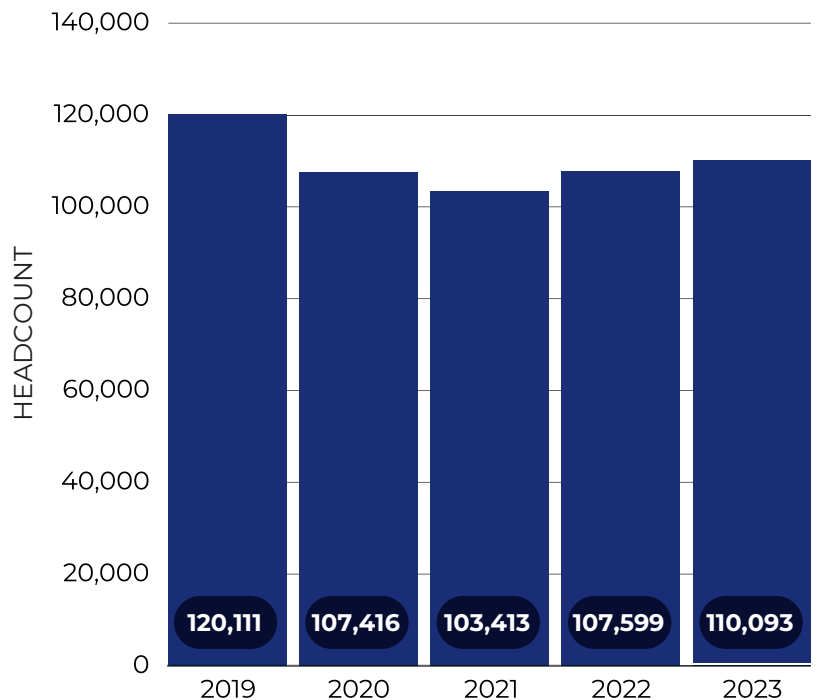


Total state, federal, and other spending devoted to providing educated outcomes for New Mexico's children and youth. In FY2023, more than \$4,337 million was spent; this spending includes funds spent within the SEG.

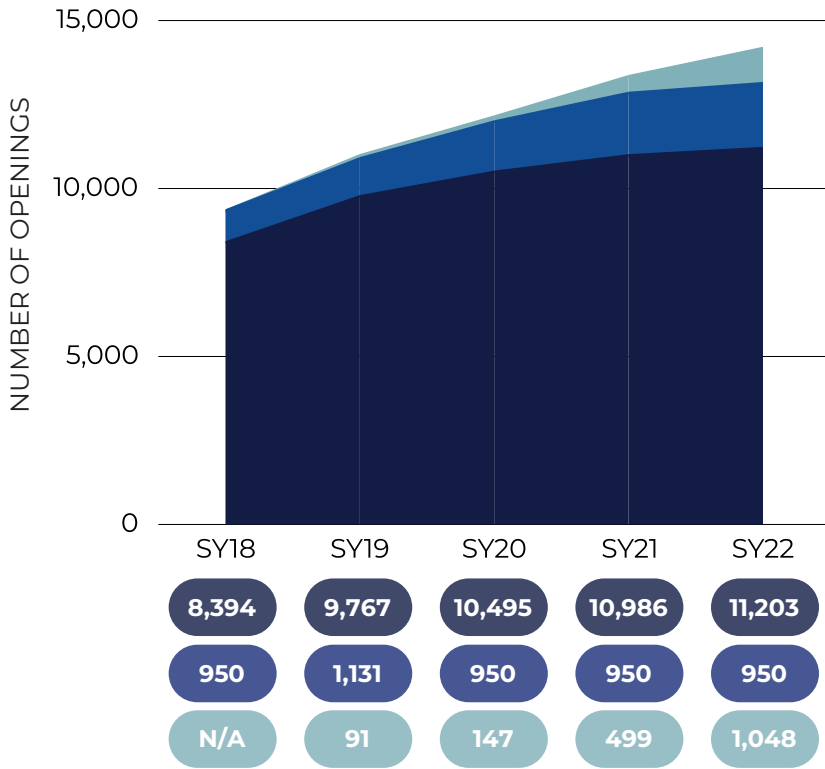
Total Higher Education Headcount Enrollment

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 2015-2023*, hed.nm.gov



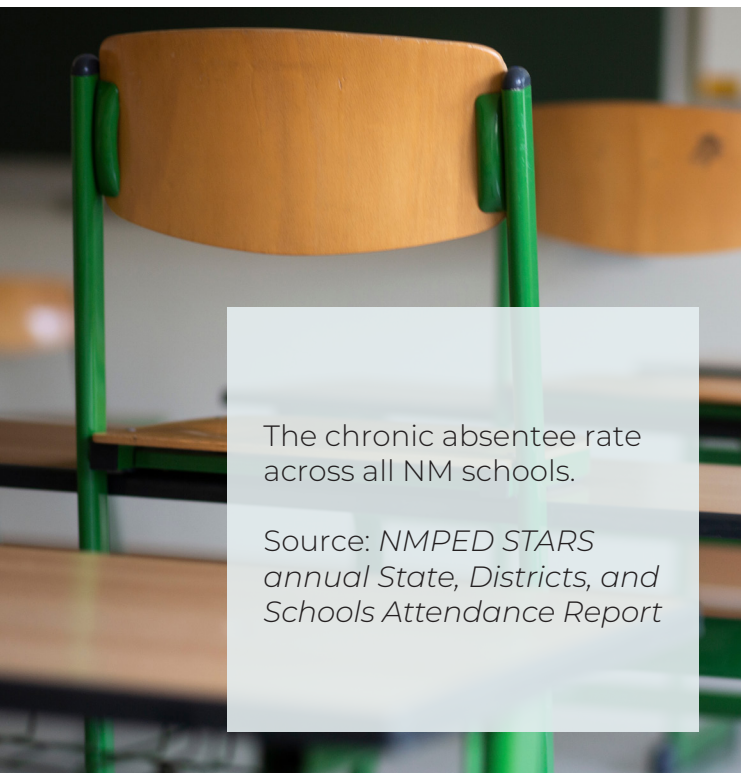
NM PreK Funded Openings



Total funded openings across NM PreK, which is offered through a mix of community-based and school-based programs, funded and monitored by ECECD.

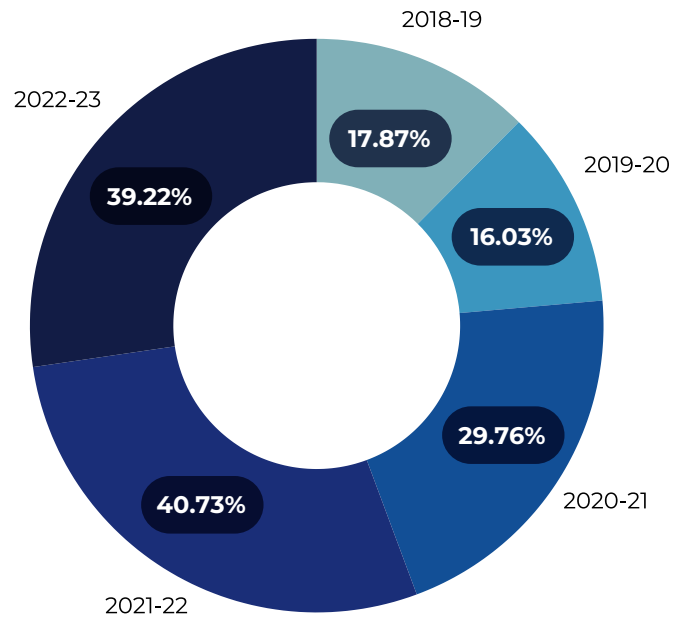
Source: NM ECECD, Annual Outcomes Report for FY2022

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.

CARA: The 2016 federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) requires states to provide Plans of Care for all babies born exposed to substances. Staff in CYFD, HSD, ECECD, and DOH have worked to implement CARA since 2020, traveling around the state and training hundreds of medical professionals, and care coordinators. A multi-agency team is currently assessing gaps in services, and each agency has provided resources to staff the program to improve services, outreach and follow up with families impacted by substance use in the perinatal period.

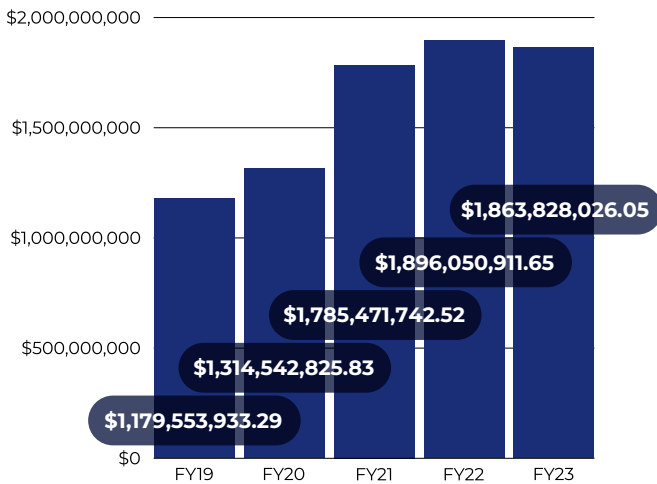
Safe Sleep: New Mexico holds an interagency safe sleep collaborative to improve education and awareness about safe sleep for infants. Participants work to reduce risks for sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUID) through messaging about safe sleep, including the use of cribs or bassinets with a firm mattress close to but not on the same surface as an adult.

Medicaid: NM Medicaid has received federal approval to extend 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. The New Mexico Home Visiting System is designed to support important long-term goals for the state's children and families. 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 FY22, 7,354 children in 6,609 families received New Mexico home visiting services.

Total Spending Trend by Healthy Outcome

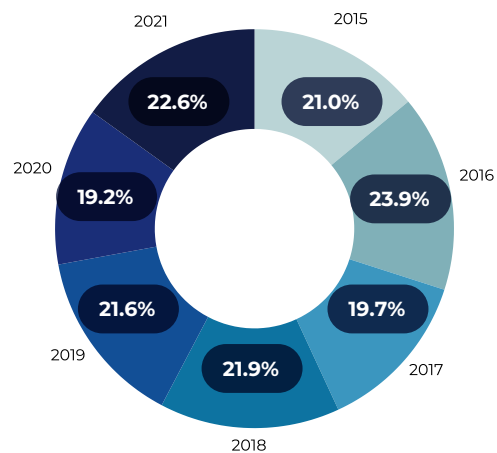


Total state, federal, and other spending devoted to providing healthy outcomes for New Mexico's children and youth. In FY2023, more than \$1,863 million was spent, the majority for Centennial Care.

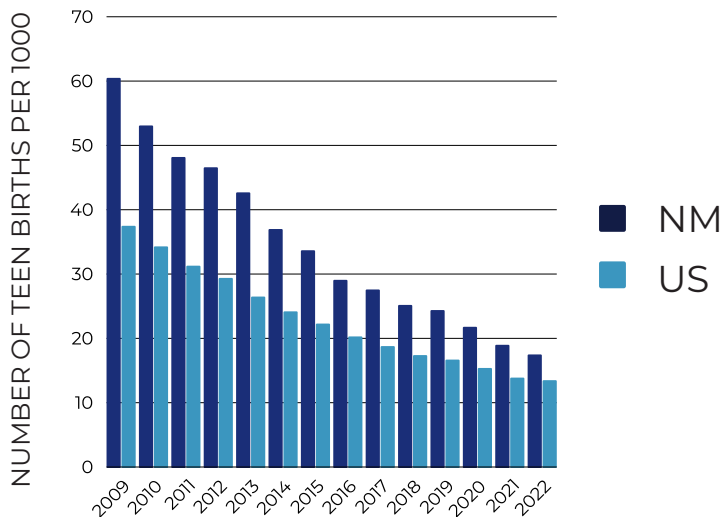
Percentage of NM Mothers With All 4 Healthy Birth Indicators

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, 2015-2021 births*

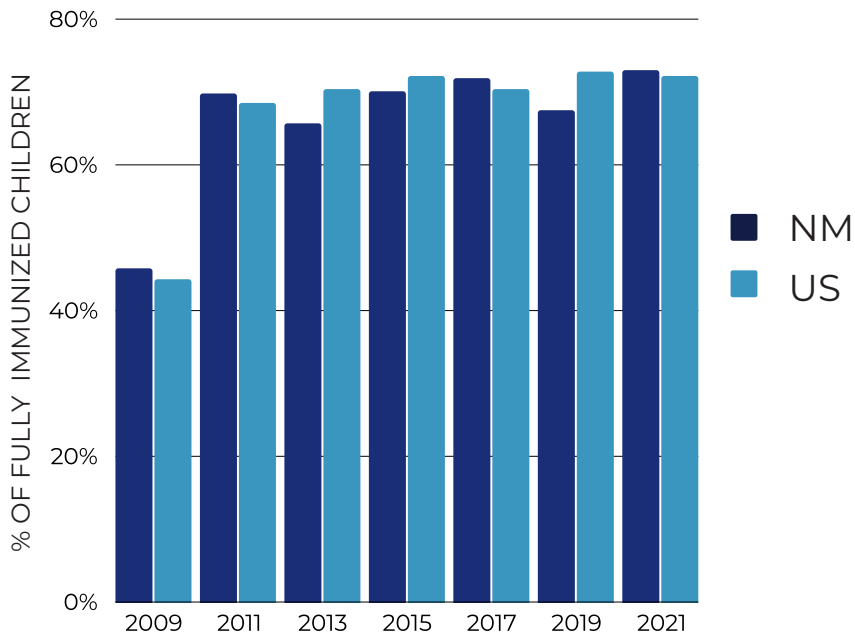


Teen Birth Rates, NM & US



New Mexico teen birth rates continue to decline at a rate higher than the national average. Note that the 2022 rate is provisional.

Childhood Immunizations, NM & US



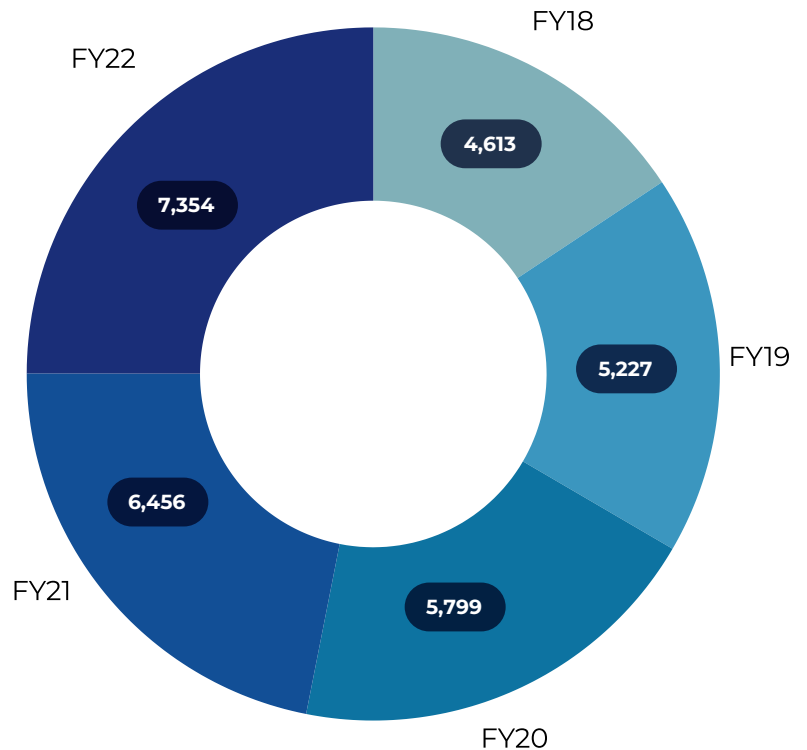
The prevalence of fully immunized children has increased significantly in NM and in the U.S. since 2009 when the coverage was under 50%. This graph presents the percentage of children 19-35 months of age who are up to date on vaccinations 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 (DTP, Polio, MMR, Flu, Hepatitis B, Varicella, Pneumococcal).

Source: NM IBIS, National Immunization Survey

Children Served by Home Visiting Services

The number of children served by NM Home Visiting services, FY2018-22.

Source: NM ECECD Annual Outcomes Report for FY2022



Safe

Family and community safety and support.

Gun Violence: The recent spate of gun-related tragedies in New Mexico, including the deaths of young children and the discovery of firearms in a high school, has brought to light the severe and escalating crisis of gun violence in the state. New Mexico faces one of the highest rates of firearms-related deaths among children in the U.S., underscoring the urgency of addressing this issue head-on. Addressing this public health emergency necessitates a multifaceted approach, akin to strategies employed during disease outbreaks, including preventative measures, treatment for those affected, and ongoing support for families. Initiatives in New Mexico to combat gun violence include gun buy-back programs, distribution of free trigger locks, prioritized treatment for

substance use disorders, and enforcing timely behavioral health treatment. However, the state faces significant challenges, particularly in the realm of behavioral healthcare, necessitating innovative solutions and community unity to protect the lives of young people and halt the spread of this violent epidemic.

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: 1.56% of NM women who had a live birth in 2020 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

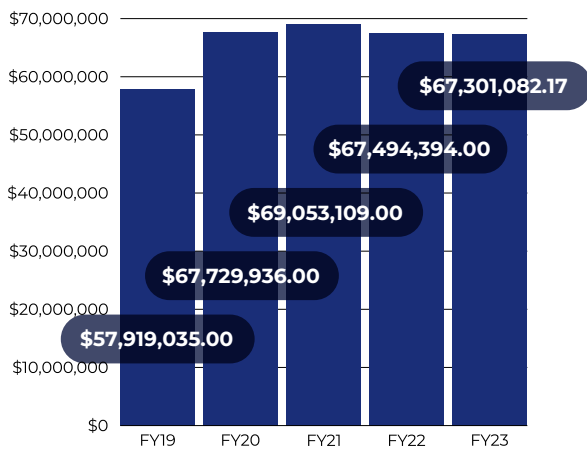
gestational weight gain, and unhealthy eating patterns. Intimate partner violence during pregnancy is also associated with a reduction in birth weight.

Supporting Transitioning Foster Youth: Youth who age out of foster care are

more likely to experience homelessness, criminal behaviors, and mental health disorders than youth in the general population. As of July 1, 2023, CYFD has fully implemented extended foster care. In addition to those that age out of the foster care system, New

Mexico's EFC program also serves young people between the ages of 18 and 21 whose adoption or guardianship finalized through CYFD after the age of fourteen but the youth and no longer receives financial or emotional support from their parent/guardian.

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 FY2023, more than \$67 million was spent.

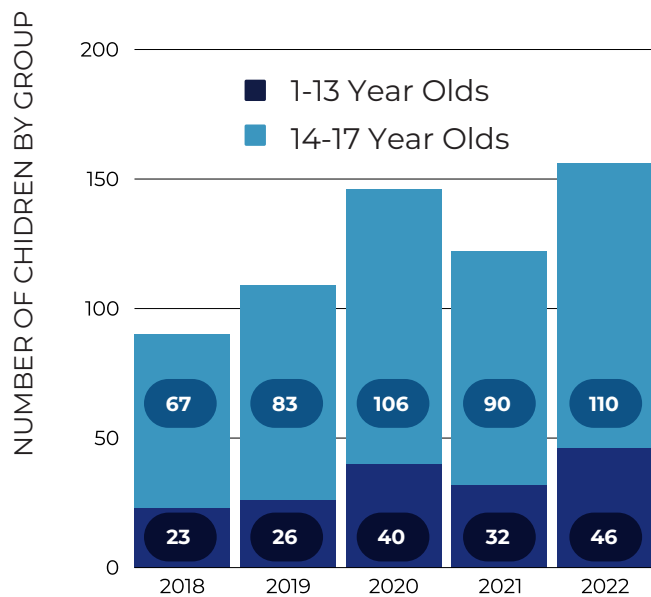
Child Firearm Injury Emergency Department Visits by Age Group and Year

The number of firearm injury emergency department visits for children, 2018-2022.

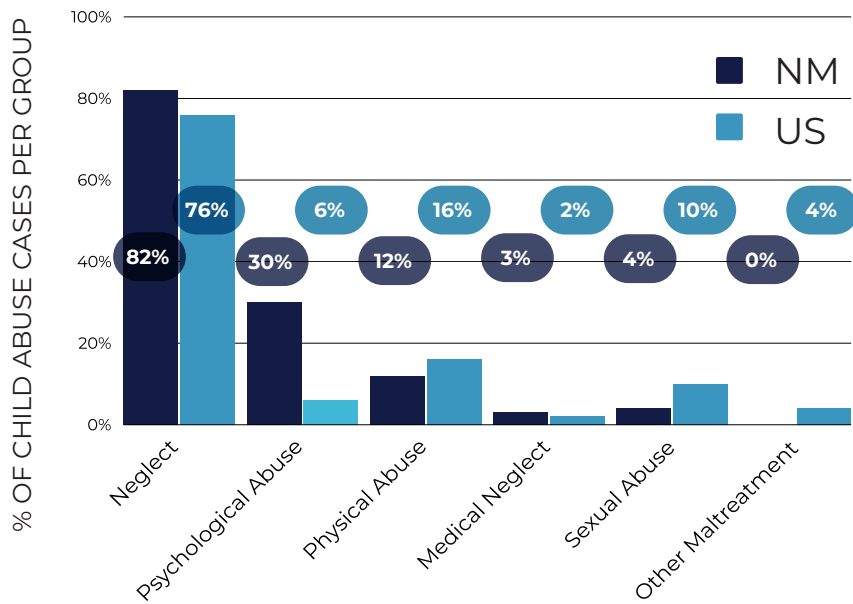
Source: ESSENCE. Data current as of October 25, 2023; accessed at <https://www.governor.state.nm.us/gun-violence-dashboard/>



Scan to view the Gun Violence Dashboard



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



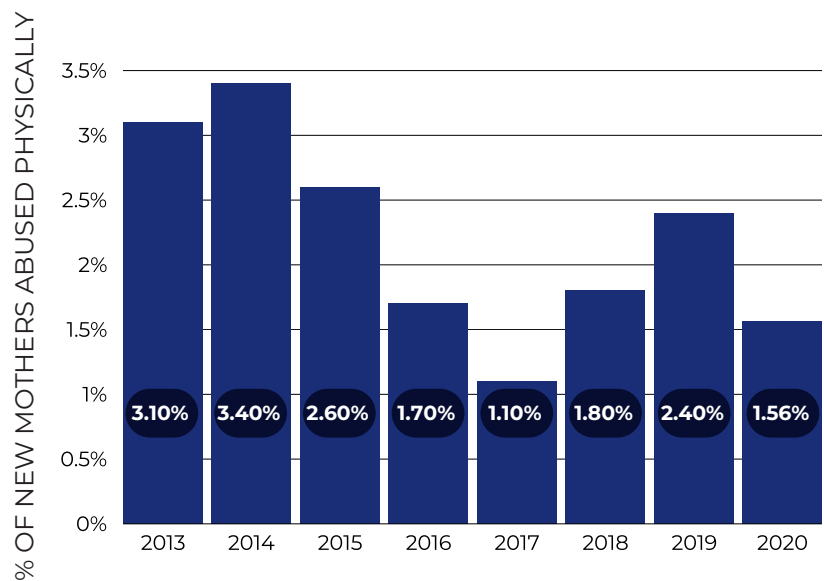
The percentage of child abuse cases by maltreatment type, NM and US, in 2021. Total may exceed 100% as children who experienced more than one type of maltreatment are counted in each applicable category.

Source: *ChildTrends.org* – *Child Maltreatment – New Mexico – Dataset #263, NCANDS Child File FY2021; Dataset #264, NCANDS Agency File FY 2021*

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 2014-2020.

Source: *NM Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System*



Supported

Successful transition to purposeful adulthood and employment.

Housing: Our goal is that all New Mexicans have safe and affordable housing. Children with stable housing show an impact in better education, health, and safety outcomes. New Mexico has made unprecedented investments this year in housing to improve an overpriced housing market and meet the growing homelessness crisis. Over \$15m will be awarded to 9 housing initiatives across the state, which have demonstrated unique approaches on local government and private-public partnerships. These awards will complete projects for 200 additional housing units. \$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. Another 14 organizations have been awarded funds for the Mobile Homelessness Response project; through harm reduction models they will connect hundreds of unhoused individuals with services and immediate needs.

Family Services at CYFD: Leadership at CYFD is in the process of creating a Family Services Division within the department. The creation of this division comes with the intent to assist families that are struggling to have their needs met, so that they do not fall into a situation where their children are suffering abuse or neglect. We know that poverty is a major contributing factor to why families enter the child welfare system; this division will allow CYFD and partner agencies to help stabilize families with wrap-around services and other family-focused supports.

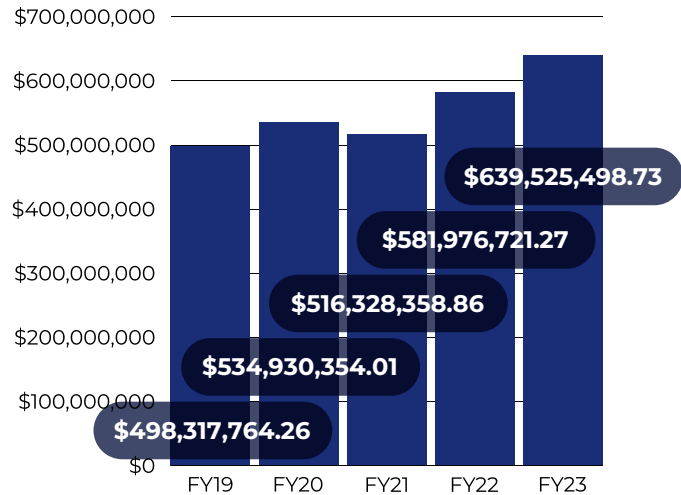
GRADs Program: NM GRADS (Graduation, Reality, And Dual-role Skills) is a statewide program for expectant and parenting teens located in 25 sites around the state. NM GRADS removes barriers to assist expectant and parenting youth to become successful students and parents. The average graduation rate for teen moms enrolled in NM GRADS the past 5 years is 77%.

Bullying: School bullies or their victims are at risk of school dropout, poor psychosocial adjustment, criminal activity and other negative long-term consequences. Prevention and early intervention programs need to begin at preschool and elementary school; and continue through middle and high school. This is not a situation of “kids will be kids” but something parents and schools need to learn to deal with for the bullying child as well as the victim. Schools with easily understood rules of conduct, smaller class sizes and fair discipline practices report less violence.

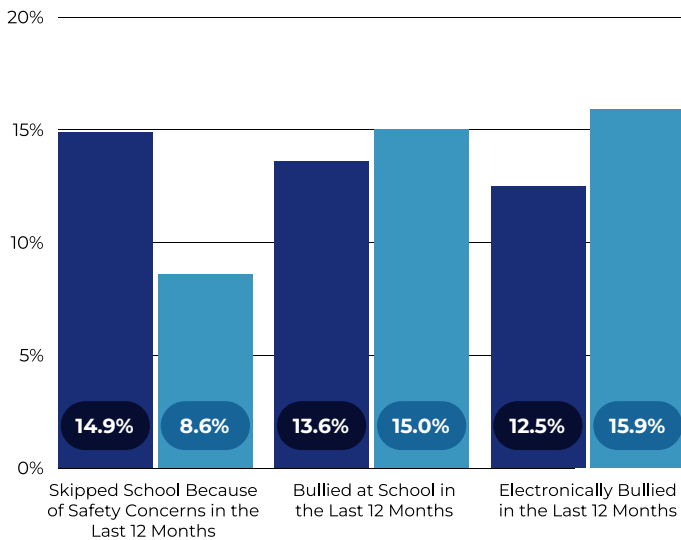
Tax Credits & Rebates: The Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) is designed to support New Mexico families who are working hard but still struggling to afford basic necessities. The WFTC was recently amended in 2021, to allow individuals who are between 18 and 25 years of age to claim it. The Low-Income Comprehensive Tax Rebate (LICTR) similarly is designed to help the state’s most at-risk taxpayers by offsetting sales taxes which take up a larger proportion of low-income family’s wages, putting more money into their hands for basic needs.

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 FY2023, more than \$639 million was spent.



Bullied in the Last 12 Months

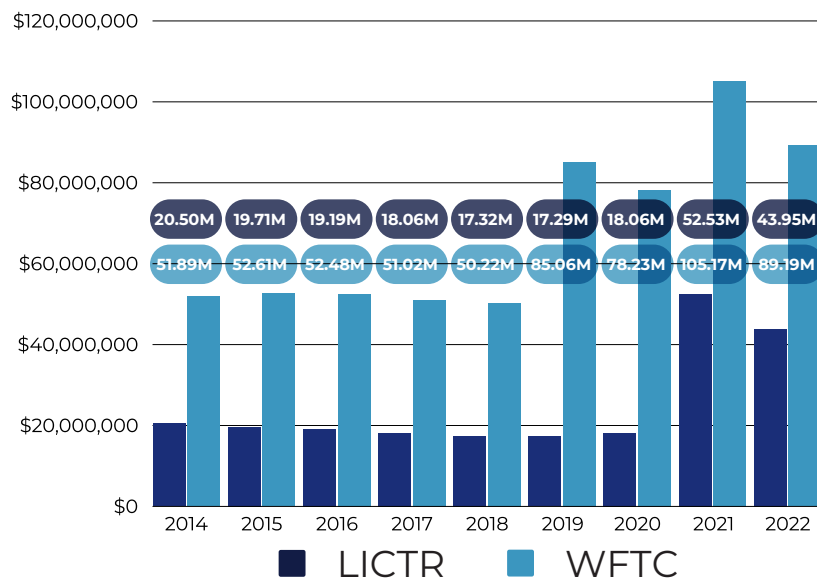


The prevalence of school bullying in 2022.

NM Personal Income Tax Credits & Rebates

The amount of LICTR and WFTC claimed by NM families over the past 5 tax years.

Source: NM TRD, Tax Analysis, Research and Statistics Office 1. Tax Years 2018-2022, 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. 582 AmeriCorps members (not including AmeriCorps Senior Program members) completed service in New Mexico in 2021-22, across 110 service locations.

Young Parents Cohort: NMDWS and other agencies have engaged with a cohort of young parents to understand what services and support these families need. In response to this gatherings/discussions, departments are working on improving non-standard office hours, improving accessibility of One-Stop Workforce Connection Centers, and other specified needs to best support young parents.

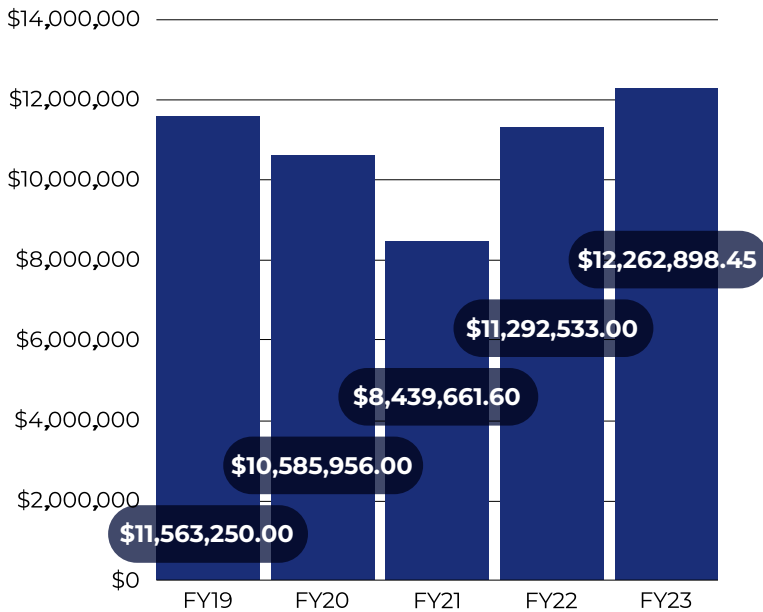
Supportive Relationships: Youth who have a high level of support from a caring and responsible adult in the home, in the school, or in the community, and those who have a caring relationship with a friend their own age, are less likely to engage in high risk behaviors than youth who do not have these

strong relationships. Among youth in NM, most youth found supportive relationships with family or with peers.

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 97.7% graduation rate in 21-22, 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: Within the Career and Technical Education bureau, the Innovation Zones Initiative brings together cutting-edge program initiatives and funding that are often siloed or disconnected. It supports the integration of graduate profiles, capstones, CTE, work-based learning, and personalized supports. These innovations ensure that young people have multiple paths and models to find the career fit that best suit their interests and talents.

Total Spending Trend by Involved Outcome



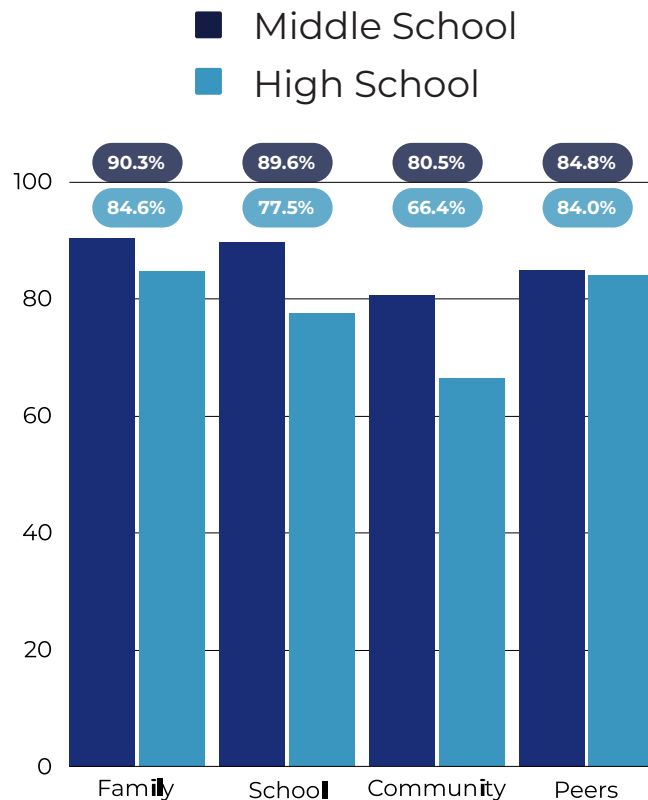
State, federal, and other spending devoted to providing involved outcomes for New Mexico's children and youth. In FY2023, more than \$12 million was spent, with the majority supporting the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

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, 2021.

Source: 2021 NM Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS)





**SCAN FOR
MORE INFORMATION**

