



# City of Las Cruces<sup>®</sup>

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

## COUNCIL WORK SESSION SUMMARY ROUTING SLIP

Meeting Date September 26, 2016

TITLE: CHILDHOOD POVERTY.

- Are there attachments to the Council Work Session Summary? Yes  No
- Will there be a Video Presentation for this item? Yes  No
- Will there be a PowerPoint Presentation for this item? Yes  No
- If "yes", will a copy of the PowerPoint Presentation be included on the Council Work Session Agenda? Yes  No

DEPARTMENT / ORGANIZATION	SIGNATURE	PHONE NO.	DATE
Drafter/Staff Contact	<i>Matali Green</i>	528-3086	8/29/16
Department Director	<i>Wilson</i>	528-3067	8-29-16
Other			
Assistant City Manager/CAO (if applicable)			
Assistant City Manager/COO (if applicable)	<i>Daniel De</i>		8/30/16
City Manager	<i>Daniel Williams</i>	X-2078	8/31/2016



# City of Las Cruces<sup>®</sup>

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

## Council Work Session Summary

**Meeting Date:** September 26, 2016

**TITLE:** CHILDHOOD POVERTY.

**PURPOSE(S) OF DISCUSSION:**

- Inform/Update
- Direction/Guidance
- Legislative Development/Policy

**BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:**

Childhood poverty is a growing concern on both a national and local level, with an estimated economic and educational effect of \$500 billion a year. Research has long recognized that impoverished children are more likely to experience lifelong detrimental consequences resulting from childhood poverty. The Mayor and City Council has expressed the desire to support an initiative that can reduce childhood poverty across the City of Las Cruces (City).

New Mexico has the second highest poverty rate in the United States, and the second highest rate of low-income, working families. In Doña Ana County, 38% of children ages 0-17 are living in poverty. Approximately 15,000 children are food-insecure in our City. 56% of households in Doña Ana County are cost-burdened, defined as paying more than 30% of their monthly income towards housing and utility expenses.

Solutions to address poverty must be two-generational, that can address the critical needs of children while helping parents improve their economic situation. Solutions must address multiple areas including food, housing, healthcare, education, and economic security.

Staff will provide a presentation that will define childhood poverty, identify overarching policy solutions and existing local resources, and provide recommendations on how City Council can assist in the effort to reduce childhood poverty in the City.

**SUPPORT INFORMATION:**

1. N/A

City of Las Cruces

# Childhood Poverty

Poverty, particularly in children, is a **SYSTEMIC PROBLEM** with lifelong detrimental consequences

## Impoverished children are more likely to experience

- low birth weights
- poor health outcomes
- higher mortality rates
- food insecurity
- fewer early educational programs
- lower reading levels
- decreased medical care
- heightened stress levels
- poor living environments
- higher rates of child abuse
- adverse childhood experiences (2 X more likely)
- a higher risk for ending up in the criminal justice system
- lower graduation rates
- poor employment outcomes

# New Mexico by the numbers

2nd highest poverty rate in United States.

- 21% of all New Mexicans live at or below the poverty level
- 2 out of every 10 New Mexicans

2nd highest rate of working families who are low income.

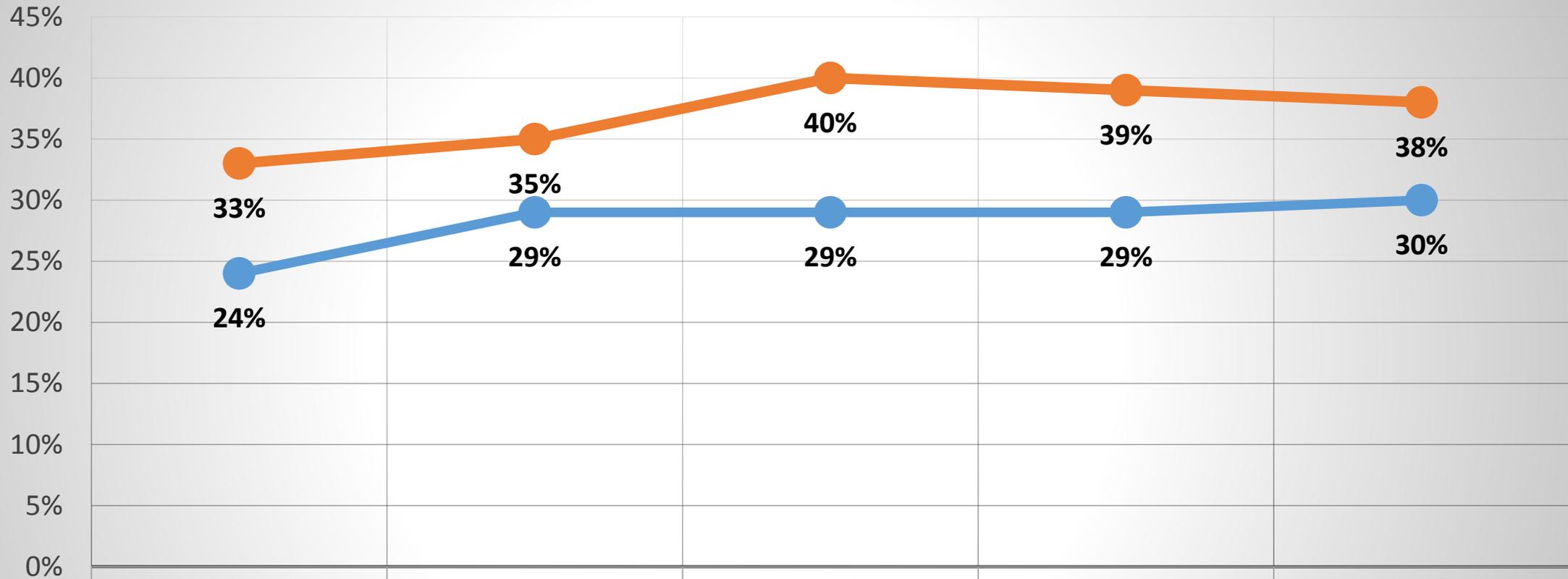
- 42% of working families are low income.
- 4 out of every 10 families

Approx. 27% of all Dona Ana County residents live at or below the poverty level. 38% of Children ages 0-17, living in poverty.

100% of the Federal Poverty Level Guidelines			
Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$11,880	\$990	\$228
2	\$16,020	\$1,335	\$308
3	\$20,160	\$1,680	\$388
4	\$24,300	\$2,025	\$467
5	\$28,440	\$2,370	\$547
6	\$32,580	\$2,715	\$627
7	\$36,730	\$3,061	\$706
8	\$40,890	\$3,408	\$786

Source: US Dept. of Health & Human Services, 2016  
Federal Poverty Guidelines

### Children, ages 0-17, living in poverty (Percent)



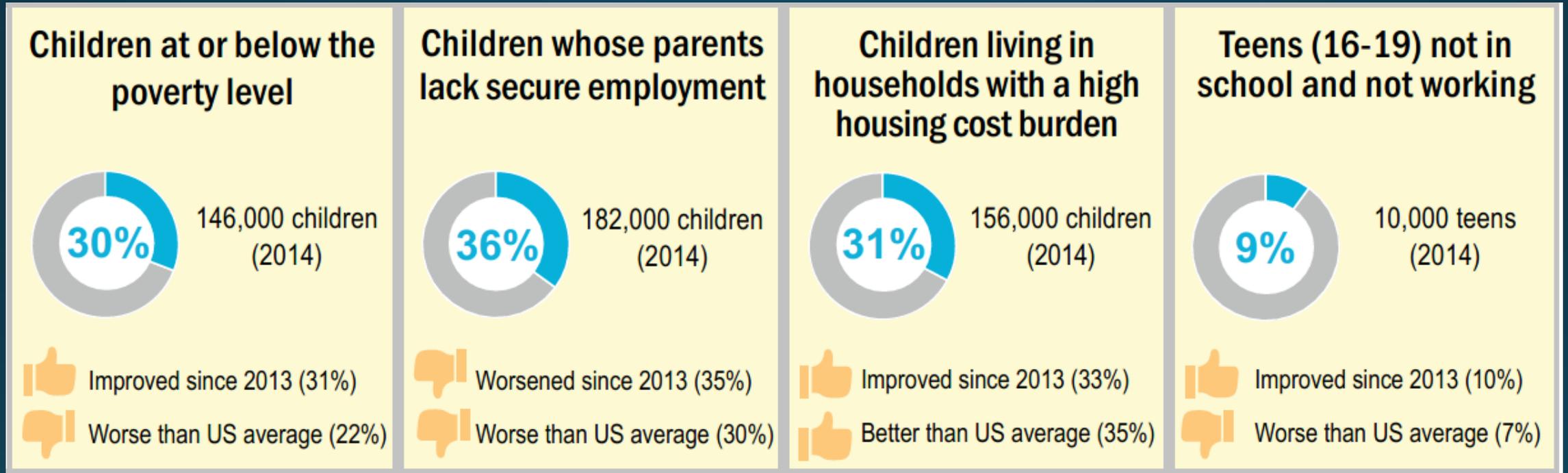
New Mexico	24%	29%	29%	29%	30%
Doña Ana	33%	35%	40%	39%	38%

● New Mexico ● Doña Ana

SOURCE: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>

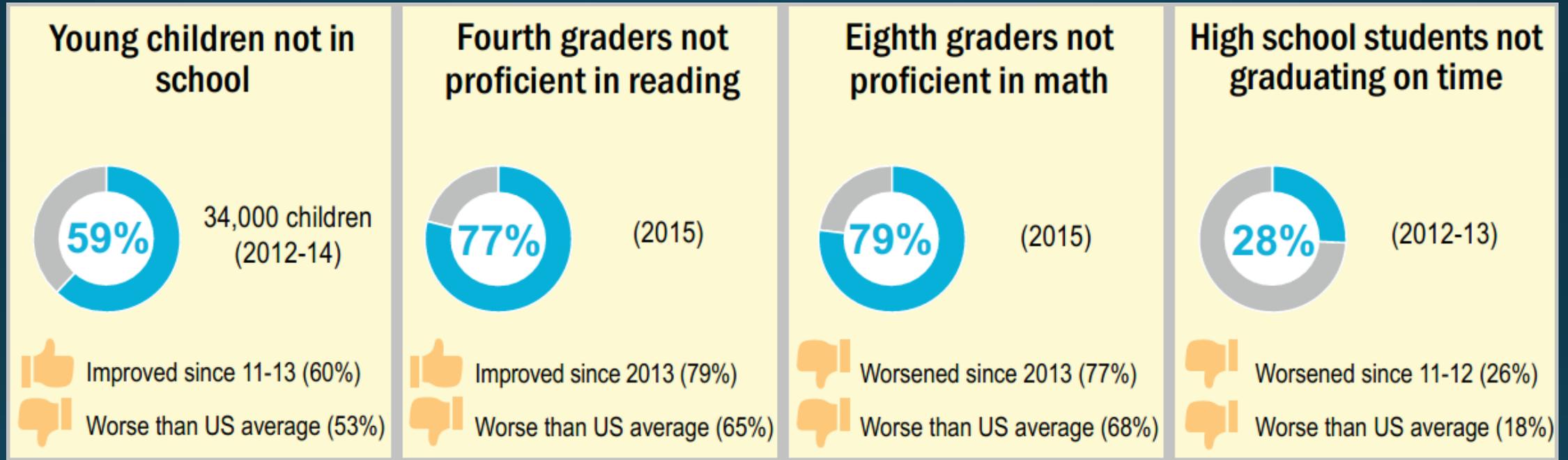
- Child Poverty is more than dollars and cents.
- KIDS COUNT, a state by state effort, tracks the status of children across 16 indicators in four domains:
  - Economic Well Being
  - Education
  - Health
  - Family and Community
- Overall New Mexico is ranked 49<sup>th</sup>

# New Mexico by the numbers: Economic Well Being



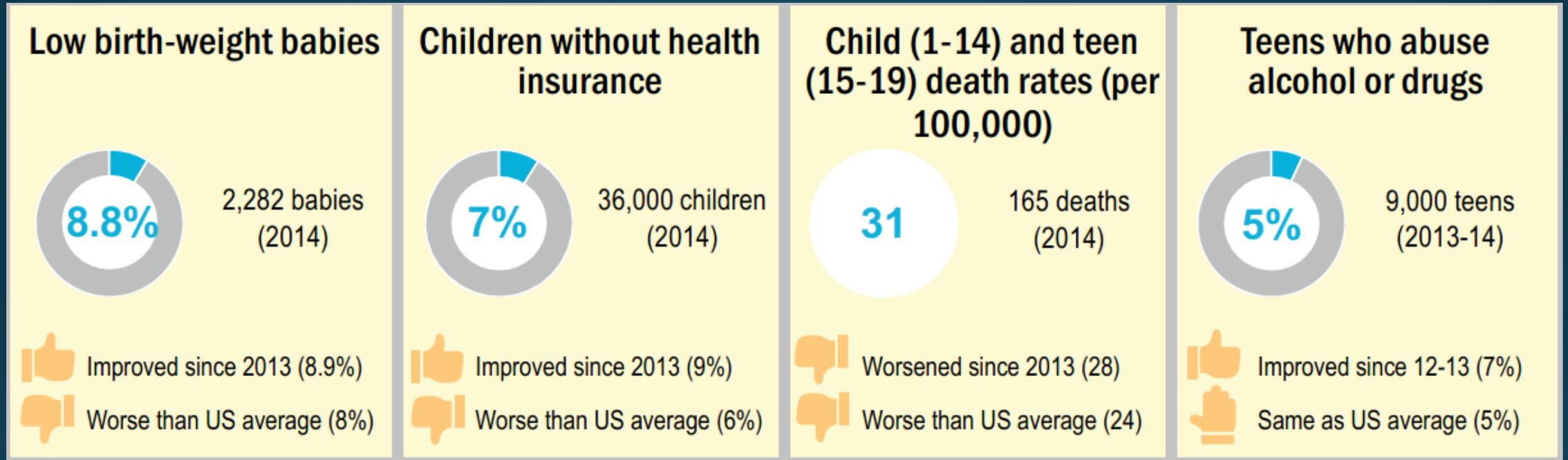
<b>Dona Ana County</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>Renters-52% Owners- 26%</b>	<b>7%</b>
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# New Mexico by the numbers: Education



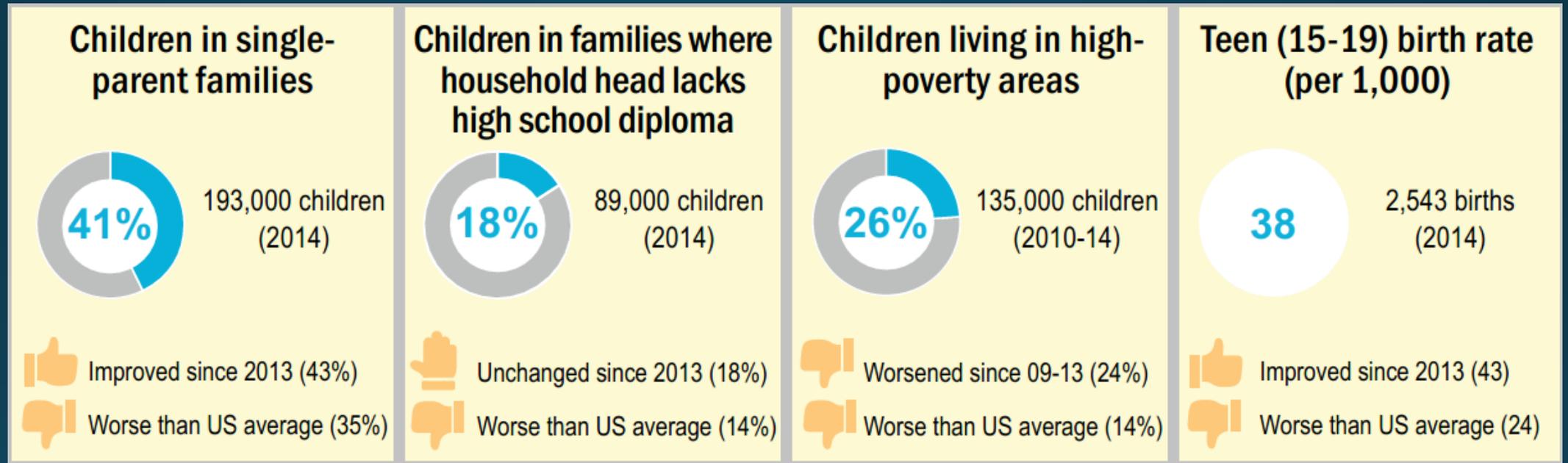
DAC OR LCPS	71%	76.5%	95.3%	25%
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# New Mexico by the numbers: Health



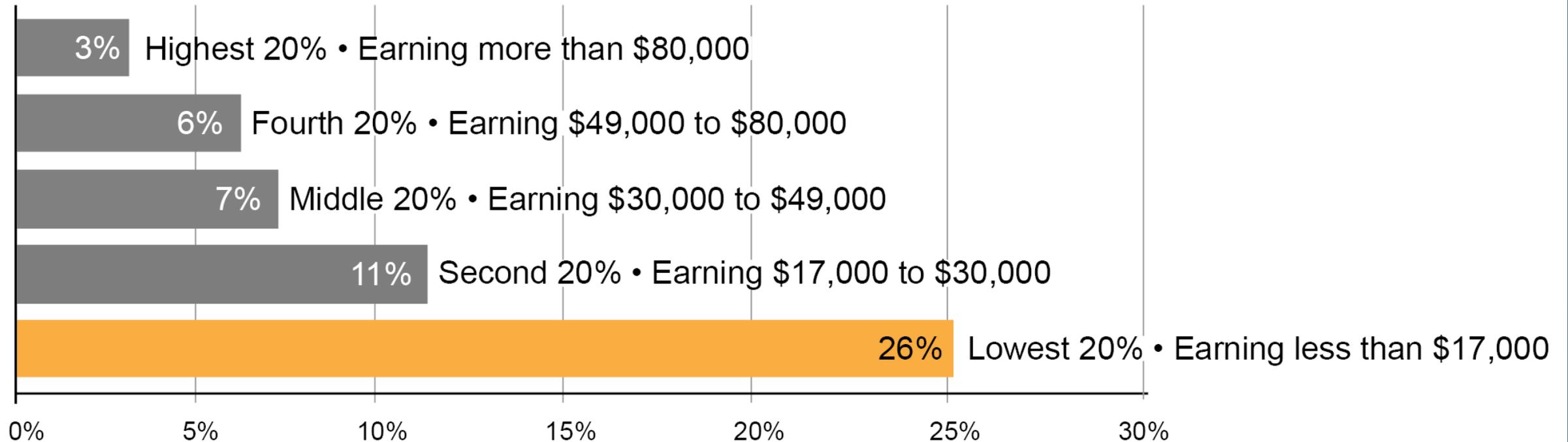
<b>Dona Ana County</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>Child: 18.0 , 5 deaths Teen: 60.5 , 11 deaths</b>	<b>21% Teen binge drink</b>
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# New Mexico by the numbers: Family and Community



<b>Dona Ana County</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>36</b>
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## The percentage of income spent on food for consumption at home by income quintile (2013)



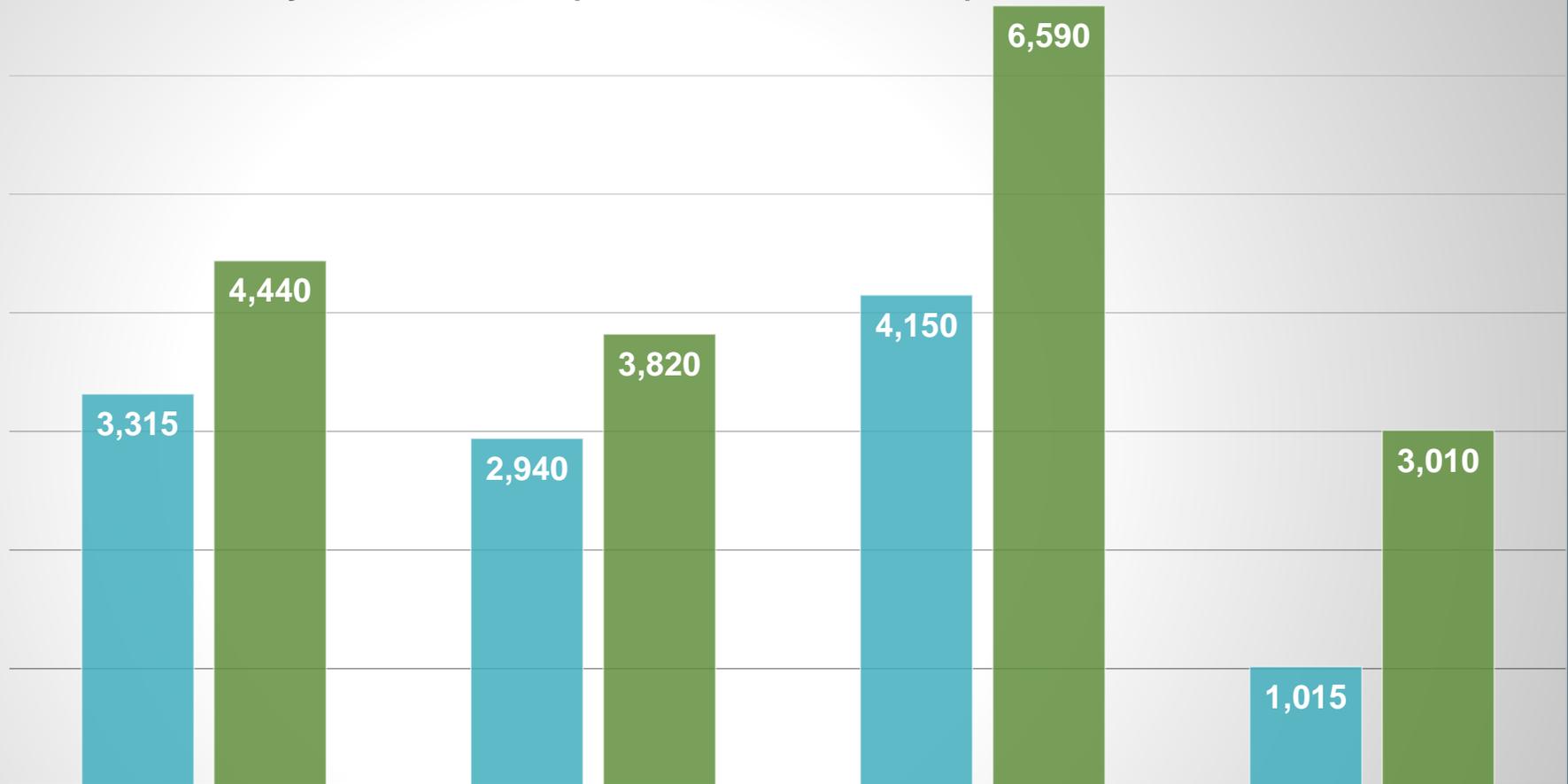
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013  
NEW MEXICO VOICES FOR CHILDREN

27% of children in Dona Ana are food insecure

Approximately 14,970 children in the City of Las Cruces.

## Las Cruces Income by Cost Burden (Owners and Renters)

number of households



	Below 30% HAMFI	30% to 50% HAMFI	50% to 80% HAMFI	80% to 100% HAMFI
Cost burden > 30%	3,315	2,940	4,150	1,015
Percentage	75%	77%	63%	34%
Total	4,440	3,820	6,590	3,010

Source: HUD CHAS data (2009-2013), American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

# Overarching Policy Solutions

Must be a two-generational approach that addresses critical needs of children while helping parents improve their economic situation.

- Food
- Housing
- Healthcare
- Education
- Economic Security

# Food (Ending Food Insecurity)

## Programs/Policies

- Increase SNAP benefits (-16%\*)
- Summer Food Programs
- Support Food Bank/Pantry services
- Nutrition/Food education programs

## City Las Cruces

- NM 2<sup>nd</sup> best Summer food program.
- La Semilla (community gardens, food education, food policy development & advocacy)
- Roadrunner Food Bank (wholesale distribution/assist local pantries)
- Casa de Peregrinos (Food Rescue & Food distribution)
- Double Up Food Bucks (Farmers Market)
- CLC provided funding to multiple food organizations.
- NMSU Coop. Ext. Services (Food & Nutrition Education)
- Senior Programs Food Pantry's (Grandparents raising grandchildren).

# Housing

## Programs/Policies

- Increased Housing subsidies (-21%\*)
- Expanded homeownership opportunities
- Increased funding for Housing Trust Funds
- Property maintenance code to reduce substandard housing
- Multifamily affordable housing development

## City Of Las Cruces

- Recipient of HUD CDBG & HOME formula grants, COC housing grant
  - Rental assistance
  - Home rehabilitation
  - Single family affordable housing development
  - Gap funding for multifamily affordable housing development
- Affordable Housing Land Bank & Trust Fund
- Impact Fee waivers for AH
- Provide operation funding to affordable housing partners like Tierra Del Sol, Habitat for Humanity, MVCH, La Casa & FYI-TLP.
- MVPHA manages the public housing and Section 8 voucher program (1400 units)

# Health Care

## City Of Las Cruces

### Programs/Policies

- Expand/Fund School based health centers
  - Child screening for adverse childhood experiences
  - Paid sick leave and family medical leave
  - Outreach for pregnant women (Medicaid/nutrition)
  - Home visiting programs
  - Expanded Medicaid enrollment assistance for children
  - Fund suicide prevention programs
  - Expand mental health programs
- Provide operational funding to health care partners like St. Luke's HCC, LCDF, SNMDO, MV HOSPICE.
  - Sponsored feasibility study for a Southern New Mexico Mental Health Facility.
  - School based health centers at Onate HS & Las Cruces HS with the help of Ben Archer Health Center.
  - LCDF operated centers at Centennial and Rio Grand Prep Institute.
  - LCDF operate center and homebased early education (home visits, parent education , screening).

# Education

## Programs/Policies

- Child care subsidy/expansion (-3%\*)
- Home visiting/parent coaching
- Expanded early intervention services
- Community school
- Early childhood/preschool programs
- Mentoring and after school services
- Reduce class sizes in high poverty areas

## City Of Las Cruces

- LCPS Head start programs at 11 elementary schools with a 413 enrolled 2015 school year.
- 23 pre-k programs operated by local childcare centers.
- Parks & Rec provides after-school services at 8 sites locations for a fee.
- Weed and Seed Afterschool Program
- Operate Juvenile Citation Program
- Operations funding provided for Boys and Girls Club & MV Casa. Prev.-Tresco Tots, Big Brothers Big Sisters

# Economic Security

## Programs/Policies

- Minimum wage increase (-4%\*)
- End predatory lending practices (Interest Fee Cap)
- Paid sick and family medical leave
- Subsidized job/career pathway programs (-11%\*)
- Adult Basic Education programs
- Earned Income Tax Credits (-9%\*)
- Child & Dependent Care tax credit expansion (-1%\*)
- Fully refundable Child Tax credit (-12%\*)

## City Of Las Cruces

- Enacted Minimum wage increase.
- Passed support resolution of interest fee caps for small loans.
- Community School (Lynn Middle School)
- DACC free ESL, HSE, Reading and Computer literacy classes.

# Recommendations

- Create/Support Affordable Housing
- Expand Telshor Facility Funding to continue to support the work our partners do.
- Hire services coordinator/ombudsperson to be a bridge between organizations and services.
- Develop a Poverty Reduction Strategic plan

# Create Affordable Housing

- Fund City's Affordable Housing Land Bank and Trust Fund
- Dedicate land for affordable housing development.
- Increase impact fee waivers for non-profit affordable housing developers.
- Increased rental assistance vouchers
- Pursue bond funding for AH development.
  - \$175,000 per unit - Multifamily Rental Development (26 units @ 4.5 mil)
  - \$130,000 per unit - Single Family Development (1300 sqft, 3 bed 2 bath)
- Estimated impact: 21% reduction\*

# Expansion of Telshor Facility Fund

- Need to fund two-year awards for a single project.
- At least \$100,000 per year.
- Develop RFP/application process
- Review and Selection Committee
- Approval through Council
- Metrics and Measure for success.

# Service Coordinator/Ombudsperson

- Create a strong network for resources and referrals.
- Outreach to existing agency to inventory current services.
- Approx. \$57,254 - \$75,880 Total Compensation (Salary and Benefits) annually.
- Website development & hotline

# Poverty Reduction Strategic plan

- Pursue grant funding for the development of a strategic plan
- Strategic plan should address
  - Housing security
  - Service access
  - Food access
  - Jobs & Economic security
  - Transit Equity
  - Early Learning

Questions  
Next steps



## Definitions, Context Indicators and Sources by Slide

Slide 1	N/A
Slide 2	Source: The State of America's Children, Children's Defense Fund 2014
Slide 3	Source: KIDS COUNT Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2015 and 2016 NEW MEXICO VOICES FOR CHILDREN
Slide 4	Source: US Dept. of Health & Human Services, 2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines
Slide 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, <a href="http://datacenter.kidscount.org">http://datacenter.kidscount.org</a>.</li> <li>• Definitions: The percentage of children under the age of 18 who are living in poverty in New Mexico, statewide and by county. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimate (SAIPE), 1-year estimates. <a href="http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/new-mexico/2016/downloads">http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/new-mexico/2016/downloads</a>; <a href="http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/measure/children-poverty">http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/measure/children-poverty</a>.</li> </ul>
Slide 6	Source: KIDS COUNT Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2015 and 2016 NEW MEXICO VOICES FOR CHILDREN
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definitions: Teenagers between age 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school (full- or part-time) and not employed (full- or part-time). This measure is sometimes referred to as “Idle Teens” or “Disconnected Youth.” Data Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 - 2014 American Community Survey.</li> </ul>
Slide 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, <a href="http://datacenter.kidscount.org">http://datacenter.kidscount.org</a>.</li> <li>• Definitions: The total number of 3-4 year-olds who are not enrolled in a preschool program; the percentage of the total population of 3-4 year-olds not enrolled in preschool. Preschool includes Head Start, licensed child care, nurseries, Pre-Kindergarten, and registered child care. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table S1401.</li> <li>• Definitions: The percentage of 4th grade students not <i>Proficient or Above</i> (achieving <i>Levels 4 or 5</i>) in reading for school year 2014-2015. Data Source: New Mexico Public Education Department, <i>NM PARCC Proficiencies 2015</i>, <a href="http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/NMPARCCindex.html">http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/NMPARCCindex.html</a>.</li> <li>• Definitions: The percentage of 8th grade students not <i>Proficient or Above</i> (achieving <i>Levels 4 or 5</i>) in math for school year 2014-2015. Data Source: New Mexico Public Education Department, <i>NM PARCC Proficiencies 2015</i>, <a href="http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/NMPARCCindex.html">http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/NMPARCCindex.html</a>.</li> <li>• Definitions: Percentage of all students in each school district that do not graduate high school in 4 years by cohort. Data for each year represents a 4-year cohort. The designation 'all students' includes: female, male, Caucasian, African American, Hispanic, Asian, American Indian, Economically Disadvantaged, Students with disabilities, English Language Learner, and Migrant students. Data Source: New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) 4-year graduation rates by cohort, <a href="http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/Graduation_data.html">http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/Graduation_data.html</a>.</li> </ul>
Slide 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, <a href="http://datacenter.kidscount.org">http://datacenter.kidscount.org</a>.</li> <li>• Definitions: The number and percentage of New Mexico babies weighing less than 2,500 grams, approximately 5.5 pounds. New Mexico's Indicator-Based Information System (NM-IBIS) defines this range of infant birth-weights as 'low to very low'. Data Source: Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics, New Mexico Department of Health; <a href="http://ibis.health.state.nm.us">http://ibis.health.state.nm.us</a>.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definitions: Number and percent of New Mexico children under the age of 19, living at all income levels, who have no health insurance coverage. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE),</li> <li>• Indicator Context: Accidents, primarily from automobiles, are the leading cause of death among children in all age groups over age 1. For children ages 1 to 4, homicide/assault is the second leading cause of death. Teen Deaths: Most youth deaths are preventable and caused by accidents, homicide, or suicide. Data Source: New Mexico Department of Public Health, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, New Mexico Death Certificate Database; retrieved January 2016 from the NM DoH Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS): <a href="http://ibis.health.state.nm.us">http://ibis.health.state.nm.us</a>.</li> <li>• Definitions: Children age 12 to 17 who reported dependence on or abuse of illicit drugs or alcohol in the past . Data Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2005-06 - 2013-2014. Data from annual report: State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2013-2014 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health Report, Appendix B, Table B.20, accessible online at <a href="http://www.oas.samhsa.gov">http://www.oas.samhsa.gov</a>.</li> </ul>
Slide 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, <a href="http://datacenter.kidscount.org">http://datacenter.kidscount.org</a>.</li> <li>• Definitions: Children under age 18 who live with their own single parent either in a family or subfamily. In this definition, single-parent families may include cohabiting couples and do not include children living with married stepparents. Children who live in group quarters (for example, institutions, dormitories, or group homes) are not included in this calculation. Data Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, 2001 Supplementary Survey and 2002 through 2014 American Community Survey (ACS).</li> <li>• Definitions: The share of children under age 18, none of whose parents has a high school diploma or equivalent or higher. Data Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 through 2014 American Community Survey.</li> <li>• Definitions: Children living in census tracts with poverty rates of 30 percent or more. Research indicates that as neighborhood poverty rates increase, undesirable outcomes rise and opportunities for success are less likely. The effects of concentrated poverty begin to appear once neighborhood poverty rates rise above 20 percent and continue to grow as the concentration of poverty increases up to the 40 percent threshold. This indicator defines areas of concentrated poverty as those census tracts with overall poverty</li> </ul>

	<p>rates of 30 percent or more because it is a commonly used threshold that lies between the starting point and leveling off point for negative neighborhood effects. The 2014 federal poverty threshold is \$24,008 per year for a family of two adults and two children. Data Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census Summary File 1 and Summary File 3 and the 2006-2010 to 2010–2014 American Community Survey 5-year data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definitions: The birth rate is the number of births to females aged 15-19, per 1,000 females aged 15-19. Data Source: Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics, New Mexico Department of Health: <a href="https://ibis.health.state.nm.us">https://ibis.health.state.nm.us</a>.</li> </ul>
Slide 11	Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013
Slide 12	Source: HUD CHAS data (2009-2013), American Community Survey, US Census Bureau
Slide 13	N/A
Slide 14	N/A
Slide 15	Source: Reducing Child Poverty in the US: Cost and Impacts of Policies proposed by the Children's Defense Fund, Urban Institute, 2015, <a href="http://www.urban.org/">http://www.urban.org/</a>
Slide 16	N/A
Slide 17	Source: Reducing Child Poverty in the US: Cost and Impacts of Policies proposed by the Children's Defense Fund, Urban Institute, 2015, <a href="http://www.urban.org/">http://www.urban.org/</a>
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Slide 21	N/A
Slide 22	N/A
Slide 23	N/A
Slide 24	N/A