

Every Child Matters in New Mexico

Child Abuse

The Challenge

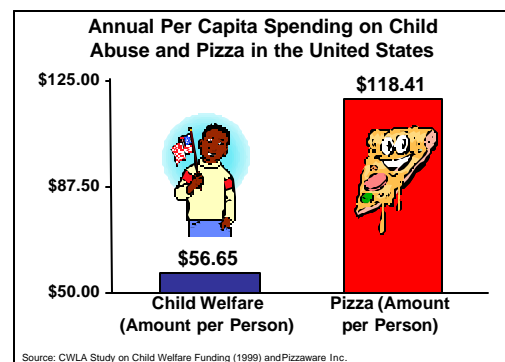
- In 2001, 13,889 children, almost 3% of all children in New Mexico, were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigationⁱ.
- In 2001, in New Mexico:
 - Once every 2 hours, a child was known to be neglected – 4,468 during the year
 - Once every 3 hours and 56 minutes, a child was physically abused – 2,227 during the year
 - Once every 19 hours and 5 minutes, a child was sexually abused – 459 during the yearⁱⁱ
 - 5 children died as a result of abuse or neglectⁱⁱⁱ
- Child abuse and neglect contributes to numerous other social problems such as poverty, crime, and alcohol and drug abuse.

The Good News

- Child abuse can be prevented and stopped, and families strengthened, by proven programs that work. Legislation before the Congress would provide major new funds to New Mexico to finance these programs.

Public Opinion

- 75% of adults said that **reducing child abuse and neglect is more important than cutting taxes**. (Fight Crime Invest in Kids, February 2001)
- 82% of voters say that **preventing child abuse and neglect is the top or a high priority** in increasing investments in children. (Mason-Dixon Polling and Research, 800 Voters Nationwide, 2/19-27/2003)
- 81% of the nation's police chiefs believe that offering parenting coaching for at-risk parents and **expanding resources for other child abuse prevention and foster care programs will significantly reduce youth crime and violence**. (Fight Crime Invest in Kids, August 2002)
- 73% of voters in one state would opt for **smaller tax cuts** in order to support programs to **reduce child abuse and neglect**. (Mason-Dixon Polling and Research, 802 Arkansas Voters, 5/3-8/2002)



Legislation and Appropriations that *Every Child Matters* Supports

- **The Act to Leave No Child Behind** (S448/HR936) – contains a child protection component that is the largest federal initiative ever proposed to help states and communities protect children and strengthen families. Designed to give children a safe start, **it could provide as much as \$53 million for new services in New Mexico^{iv}**. This bill currently resides in the Senate Finance Committee and several House committees.
- **Title XX–Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)** – allocates funding to help states deliver social services. States like New Mexico spend over 25% of this money on services to prevent child abuse and neglect. The Welfare Reform Act of 1996 increased the funding of the SSBG to \$2.8 billion for 2003 and beyond. **Every Child Matters supports increasing the SSBG to its original funding level of \$2.8 billion, which would increase support to New Mexico by \$7.1 million^v**.
- **The Child Protection and Drug Partnership Act** (S614) – would provide money for state child welfare and substance abuse agencies to increase treatment services in child abuse and neglect cases. **This bill would provide \$12.3 million to New Mexico** over the next five years^{vi}. This bill currently resides in the Senate Finance Committee.
- **Child Protective Services Improvement Act** (HR1534) – ensures child safety by giving grants and bonuses to improve state performance, supporting front-line quality workers, combating the effects of substance abuse, increasing state flexibility to serve families, and ensures adequate funding for prevention and adoption services. **This bill would provide \$27.6 million for New Mexico^{vii}**. This bill currently resides in the House Ways and Means Committee. **Every Child Matters supports this legislation and the introduction of companion legislation in the U.S. Senate.**

Every Child Matters in New Mexico

Health Care

The Challenge

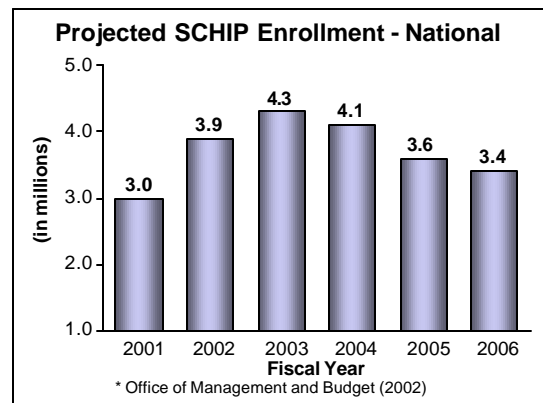
- Based on estimates as of 12/31/2001, one out of every 5 New Mexico children, 120,000 total, did not have health insurance^{viii}.
- One out of every 4 two year-olds, more than 7,174 total, has not been immunized^{ix}.
- In the last month, one of every 5 youths aged 12-17 drank alcohol, 34,000 total^x, and one out of every 8 youth used an illicit drug, 21,000 total^{xi}.
- The New Mexico Kids program has had success in insuring low-income children, but 45,000 New Mexico children live in working poor families with no insurance coverage^{xii}.
- Parents of many children in the New Mexico Kids program do not have any insurance themselves.

The Good News

- Much is known about producing healthy outcomes for children and programs are in place to reduce even more the number of uninsured children.

Public Opinion

- 91% of adults believe **children should have the right to health insurance**. (Robert Wood Johnson/Harvard/University of MD, 1501 Adults Nationwide, November 1997)
- 84% of voters say that **assuring children access to health care is the top or a high priority** in increasing investments in children. (Mason-Dixon Polling and Research, 800 Voters Nationwide, February 2003)
- 79% of adults **support continued federal and state efforts to provide all children with health insurance even if it means an increase in taxes**. (Packard Foundation/International Communications Research, March 2003)
- 83% of adults **consider it a “major problem” that too many children lack adequate health care coverage**. (NBC News/Hart-Teeter, 2006 adults nationwide, June 1998)



Legislation and Appropriations that *Every Child Matters* Supports

- The health care component of the **Act to Leave No Child Behind (S448/HR936)** – would help give children in New Mexico a healthy start. If enacted, **nearly all of the children in New Mexico would be eligible for health coverage and will no longer be denied medical care because their parents can't pay**. Expanded coverage would help fully immunize all children in New Mexico. This bill currently resides in the Senate Finance Committee and several House committees.
- **Give a Kid a Chance Omnibus Mental Health Services Act of 2003 (HR81)** – Amends the Public Health Service Act to **support programs to promote mental health among all children and their families** and to provide early intervention services to ameliorate identified mental health problems in children and adolescents.
- **The MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2003 (S448/HR936)** – as part of the Act to Leave to Child Behind, this would amend the Social Security Act to **guarantee comprehensive health care coverage for all children** born after 12/31/04. This bill currently resides in the Senate Finance Committee and several House committees.
- **The Children First SCHIP Improvement Act of 2003 (S312/HR449)** – a current part of the law that created the CHIP program mandates that any unused money reverts back to the federal government. This bill **will extend the availability of SCHIP allotments for FY2004 and expands the eligibility of children for medical assistance**. New Mexico has \$42.5 in unspent SCHIP funding at the end of FY2002. This bill was passed in the Senate in June 2003 and currently awaits action in the U.S. House.

Every Child Matters in New Mexico

After-School Programs

The Challenge

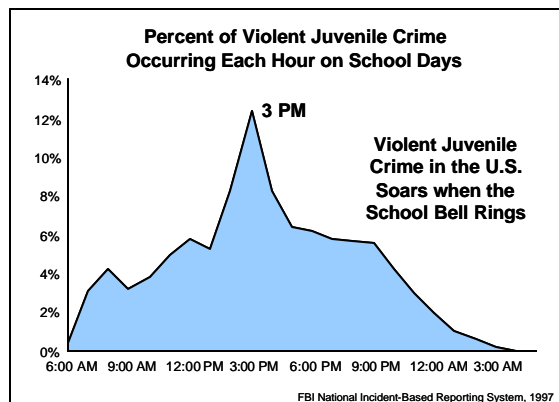
- Currently, 50% of New Mexico children under six have mothers in the workforce and 64% of children between six and 17 live in households where both parents work^{xiii}.
- The GAO estimates that in the year 2002, the current number of out-of-school programs for school-age children will meet as little as 25% of the demand in some urban areas.
- On school days, the hours from 3-6 PM are peak hours for:
 - kids to smoke, drink, do drugs, and engage in sex,
 - innocent kids to become crime victims,
 - 16 and 17 year olds to be in a car crash,
 - teens to commit crimes.

The Good News

- Quality youth development programs can cut crime immediately and transform this prime time for juvenile crime into hours of academic enrichment, wholesome fun, and community service.
- The placement of after-school prevention programs in urban areas has led to steady declines in juvenile arrests and juvenile violent crime.

Public Opinion

- 71% of voters say it is difficult for parents to find after-school programs; 60% say it is difficult for parents to find after-school programs in their community. (Afterschool Alliance, June 2000)
- 67% of Americans are ready to forego a tax cut to provide children with good early childhood development and quality after-school programs. (Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2001)
- In a survey of police chiefs, 86% said expanding after-school and educational childcare programs would greatly reduce youth crime and violence. 91% of police chiefs said America will pay later in crime, welfare, and other costs, if greater investments in after-school and educational child care aren't made now. (Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 1999)



Legislation and Appropriations that *Every Child Matters* Supports

- **Title V Community Prevention Grants** - funds delinquency prevention programs such as after-school activities, mentoring, tutoring, drop-out reduction, gang prevention and substance abuse prevention. In 2003 Title V received \$46 million a more than 50% cut from FY2002. Also, because of earmarks, only \$3 million will go to prevention programs nationally. **Every Child Matters recommends that Congress approve an appropriation level of at least \$250 million for Title V, approximately \$187,000 for New Mexico^{xiv}.**
- **The Younger Americans Act** - would establish a coordinated national youth policy. It would support youth development with mentoring and after-school programs proven to prevent delinquency. Currently, eight out of ten after-school grant applications are turned down due to lack of funding. This bill did not pass the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee or the House Education and Workforce Committee during the 107th Congress. **Every Child Matters recommends the reintroduction into the 108th Congress and passage of the Younger Americans Act and approval of a funding level of \$500 million, of which \$3.2 million would go to New Mexico^{xv}.**
- **The 21st Century Community Learning Centers** - the federal government's principal after-school program for elementary and secondary school students. These learning centers received \$993 million in funding for 2002, \$2.4 million of which went to New Mexico. The Administration has proposed cutting the program in 2004 by 40%, to \$600 million. **Every Child Matters recommends that 21st CCLC receive an appropriation level of at least \$1.75 billion, of which New Mexico would receive \$7.7 million^{xvi}.**

Every Child Matters in New Mexico

Pre-School Education and Child Care

The Challenge

- Currently, 50% of New Mexico children under six have mothers in the workforce^{xvii}.
- 27.6% of New Mexico children under the age of five live in poverty^{xviii}.
- In New Mexico, child care costs at an urban center for a four year old averages \$4,801 per year, and the costs for a 12 month old averages \$5,607, 157% more than the cost of public college tuition in the state^{xix}.
- Only 13% of eligible children in New Mexico received child-care assistance through state and federally funded early childhood programs^{xx}.
- Estimates suggest that between 10 to 20 percent of non-employed mothers of young children **do not seek employment due to the lack of affordable child care.**

Public Opinion

- 64% of voters say they are **concerned about not having adequate child care when they go to work.** (Pew Research Center, September 2000)
- 81% of parents **favor doubling the federal income tax credit for child care and preschool expenses.** (Charney Research, May 2000)
- 84% of voters nationally believe access to affordable pre-school education that prepares children for school **should be a priority in greater investments in children.** (Mason-Dixon Polling and Research, 800 Voters Nationally, 2/19-27/2003)

School-Readiness Child Care Saves Money

Taxpayers, victims of crime, and participants saved over \$700 for every \$100 in a preschool or home visitation program



**For Every
\$100 Invested**



**Over \$700
Was Saved**

Source: Reynolds, A.J., Cost Benefit Analysis of the Title 1 Chicago Child-Parent Center Program Executive Summary

The Good News

- **The Good News** – Quality early childhood education programs are proven to cut crime and violence, and send children to school ready to learn. Studies have shown that children in these programs have better self-esteem, social behavior, academic achievements, and cognitive development than similar children who did not participate in the programs.

Legislation and Appropriations that *Every Child Matters* Supports

- **The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)** – allows low-income parents to work by assisting them with funding for school-readiness child care programs. Despite years of research citing the effectiveness of early childhood programs, CCDBG is still so under-funded that only one out of eight eligible families receive subsidies. **Currently New Mexico receives \$37.7 million from this program^{xxi}. Every Child Matters recommends significant increases in funding for CCDBG.**
- **Head Start and Early Head Start** – are the nation's premiere school readiness programs for children in low-income families. Head Start provides comprehensive services for 3- and 4-year-olds and Early Head Start provides comprehensive child development to babies and toddlers up to age three. Quality early childhood education programs like Head Start have been proven to help children start school ready to learn and to cut later crime and violence. **However, Head Start is so underfunded it cannot serve more than 40% eligible for the program and Early Head Start serves less than 2% of those eligible. Every Child Matters recommends reauthorization and significant new investments in these programs.**
- **Title XX–Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)** – provides funds to assist states in delivering social services. States spend over 13% of this money on child care services to prevent child abuse and neglect. The Welfare Reform Act of 1996 increased the funding of SSBG to \$2.8 billion for 2003 and beyond. However, Congress has been cutting the program, reducing it by 40%. In 2002, SSBG received \$1.7 billion, \$10.9 million of which went to New Mexico. **Every Child Matters supports increasing the SSBG to its original level of funding of \$2.8 billion which would increase the amount of money going to New Mexico by \$7.1 million^{xxii}.**

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- ⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “Child Maltreatment 2001”, http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cm01/table2_1.htm.
- ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “Child Maltreatment 2001”, http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cm01/table3_4.htm.
- ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “Child Maltreatment 2001”, http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cm01/table5_2.htm.
- ^{iv} Childrens Defense Fund Action Council, “A Safe Start for New Mexico’s Children”, <http://www.cdfactioncouncil.org/New Mexico%20act.pdf>.
- ^v Estimate Based on Percentage of Current Allocation to the SSBG, <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/docs/esalloc03.htm>.
- ^{vi} Estimate based on proposed three year appropriations level of \$1,425,000,000 (<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/F?c107:1:/temp/~c107sWJ3GV:e19164>) multiplied by the percentage of children living in New Mexico.
- ^{vii} Estimate passed on proposed allocation.
- ^{viii} Based on merged March 2000 and 2001 Current Population Survey data, weighted to represent one year, with adjustments for reported changes in Medicaid and SCHIP as of December 2001.
- ^{ix} Annie E. Casey Foundation, “Kids Count 2002”, <http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/kc2002.cgi?action=profile&area=New Mexico>.
- ^x U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Applied Studies Substance Abuse and Mental Health Statistics DHHS, <http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/NHSDA/99StateTabs/tables2.htm#6a>.
- ^{xi} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Applied Studies Substance Abuse and Mental Health Statistics DHHS, <http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/NHSDA/99StateTabs/tables2.htm#2a>.
- ^{xii} Annie E. Casey Foundation, “Kids Count 2002”, <http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/kc2002.cgi?action=profile&area=New Mexico>.
- ^{xiii} U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3, Table P46. Age of Own Children under 18 in Families and Subfamilies by Living Arrangements by Employment Status of Children.
- ^{xiv} Estimate based on FY2002 allocation (<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/titlev/grant.html#New Mexico>).
- ^{xv} Estimated based on proposed allocation of \$500,000,000 multiplied by the percentage of children in New Mexico.
- ^{xvi} Estimate based on current allocation of funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OUS/Budget03/03StateTables/03stbystate.xls>).
- ^{xvii} U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3, Table P46. Age of Own Children under 18 in Families and Subfamilies by Living Arrangements by Employment Status of Children.
- ^{xviii} U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3, Table P90. Poverty Status in 1999 of Families by Family Type by Presence and Age of Related Children <18 Years.
- ^{xix} Children’s Defense Fund, “High Cost of Child Care Puts Quality Care Out of Reach for Many Families”, <http://www.childrensdefense.org/pdf/highcost.pdf>.
- ^{xx} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “Child Care and Development Block Grant/Child Care and Development Fund Children Served – Children Served in Fiscal Year 1999 (Average Monthly)”, <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2000pres/20001206a.pdf>.
- ^{xxi} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Child Care Bureau, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/policy1/current/im0201/finall02.htm>.
- ^{xxii} Estimate Based on Percentage of Current Allocation to the SSBG, <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/docs/esalloc03.htm>.