NEW MEXICO
Progress Report

2015 Edition

A snapshot of New Mexico's status in:

- Education
- Health
- Economy
- Water

NEW MEXICO FIRST
People. Ideas. Progress.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Preface** 5

**CHAPTER 1: Introduction** 7
- About This Report 7
- How This Report is Structured 7
- Indicators 7
- Goals at a Glance 8
- Moving Forward 9

**CHAPTER 2: New Mexico Overview** 10
- Connections 10
- Social Determinants 10
- Population Demographics 11
  - State Population 11
  - Population by Race/Ethnicity 12
  - Hispanic Population 12
  - Changing Generations 13
  - Rural Population 14
- Revenue Sources and Expenditures 15
- Application of This Information 16

**CHAPTER 3: Education** 17
- GOAL 1: Engage parents and children to work together to achieve success in education. 17
  - INDICATOR: Elementary School Truancy Rate 17
- GOAL 2: Prepare our youngest children for school success. 18
  - INDICATOR: Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment 18
  - INDICATOR: Reading Proficiency 19
  - INDICATOR: Math Proficiency 20
- GOAL 3: Ensure K-12 students thrive academically, with no differences in achievement based on race or ethnicity. 21
  - INDICATOR: Academic Proficiency by Race/Ethnicity 21
  - INDICATOR: High School Graduation Rate 22
- GOAL 4: Graduate college students with the skills to compete and be successful in demanding work environments. 23
  - INDICATOR: College Graduation Rate 23
  - INDICATOR: NM STEM Graduates 23
  - INDICATOR: Educational Attainment 25
- What's been done? 26

**CHAPTER 4: Health** 28
GOAL 5: Ensure New Mexicans are healthy, without racial or ethnic disparities.

INDICATOR: Access to Healthy Food
INDICATOR: Diabetes Deaths
INDICATOR: Heart Disease Deaths

GOAL 6: Make healthcare accessible and affordable for all New Mexicans.

INDICATOR: Healthcare Provider Access
INDICATOR: Health Insurance Coverage

GOAL 7: Improve the overall health of New Mexicans through preventive activities.

INDICATOR: Child Immunization Rate
INDICATOR: Adult Smoking Prevalence

GOAL 8: Provide adequate and high quality behavioral and mental health services.

INDICATOR: Mental Healthcare Provider Access
INDICATOR: Substance Abuse Deaths

CHAPTER 5: Economy

GOAL 9: Improve economic conditions, thus increasing household incomes and reducing poverty.

INDICATOR: Household Income
INDICATOR: Poverty
INDICATOR: Unemployment

GOAL 10: Diversify the economy to provide high-wage jobs and opportunities for entrepreneurs.

INDICATOR: Industry Diversity
INDICATOR: Export-Related Employment
INDICATOR: Entrepreneurship

GOAL 11: Maintain a regulatory and tax environment that enables business development and job creation.

INDICATOR: Fiscal & Regulatory Policy

GOAL 12: Advance New Mexico as a leader in energy production and supply.

INDICATOR: Energy Production and Future Potential

CHAPTER 6: Water

GOAL 13: Conserve water in New Mexico.

INDICATOR: Total Water Use
INDICATOR: Agricultural Water Use
INDICATOR: Water Use by Public Water Systems
INDICATOR: Water Use by Commerce and Industry

GOAL 14: Ensure forests, watersheds and waterways are healthy, providing safe water for humans and the environment.

INDICATOR: Waterway Impairment
INDICATOR: Dams With Safety Deficiencies
FUTURE INDICATOR: Forest Restoration
GOAL 15: Generate adequate data and mapping, informing long-term planning.

INDICATOR: Freshwater Aquifer Characterization

FUTURE INDICATOR: Brackish Water Basin Characterization

GOAL 16: Manage the state’s legal water matters fairly and efficiently.

INDICATOR: Water Rights Adjudications

INDICATOR: Water Compact Compliance

What’s been done?

CHAPTER 7: Conclusion

Index
PREFACE

How can a state know if it is becoming stronger? How can leaders know if their efforts are making a difference—or even what kind of changes to pursue? This report draws on the wisdom of thousands of New Mexicans who took part in past town halls and public forums, together developing fundamental goals for our state. Throughout the report, progress measures indicate levels of movement toward those goals.

ABOUT NEW MEXICO FIRST

This information was compiled by New Mexico First, a nonpartisan public policy organization that engages people in key issues facing our state. Established in 1986, the nonprofit offers unique town halls and forums that produce recommendations for policymakers and the public. Most of those deliberations address education, health, the economy and natural resources including water. Public policy reports on all these issues are available at www.nmfirst.org. The state’s two U.S. Senators, Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich serve as New Mexico First’s honorary co-chairs in partnership with large bipartisan board of directors. The organization was co-founded by retired U.S. Senators Jeff Bingaman and Pete Domenici.

Report Contributors

Many people throughout the state contributed to the development of this information. They come from different backgrounds and are united in their desire to see data used to create a stronger, healthier New Mexico.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Peter Winograd, UNM Center for Education Policy Research (retired), advisory committee chair
- Adrian Oglesby, UNM Utton Center, water chapter contributing editor
- Hilma Chynoweth, formerly with Albuquerque Economic Development
- Amy Dowd, NM Health Insurance Exchange
- Claire Dudley-Chavez, New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership
- Sam Fernald, New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute
- Sandy Freeland, Zuni School District
- Anne Jakle, NM EPSCoR, formerly with Energy, Minerals, & Natural Resources Department
- Jason John, Navajo Nation Water Management
- Michael Landen, New Mexico Department of Health
- Patricia Montoya, New Mexico Coalition for Health Care Value
- Brian Rashap, Intel Corporation
- Suzan Reagan, UNM Bureau of Business & Economic Research
- Valerie Romero-Leggott, UNM Health Sciences Center
- Eugene Sun, Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico
- Grant Taylor, Hobbs Chamber of Commerce
- Kathy Ulibarri, Central New Mexico Community College
TECHNICAL REVIEWERS
The following people reviewed parts of this report before it was published, lending technical expertise.

- Tony Delphin, New Mexico Forestry Division
- Joan Drake, Modrall Sperling Law Firm
- Jerry Harrison, New Mexico Health Resources
- Kent Reid, New Mexico Highlands University
- Rolf Schmidt, NM Interstate Stream Commission

AUTHORS

- Heather Balas, President & Executive Director, New Mexico First
- Charlotte Pollard, Deputy Director, New Mexico First
- Melanie Sanchez Eastwood, Communications Director, New Mexico First

SPONSORS

- Intel Corporation
- Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Hatton W. Sumners Foundation

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The initial New Mexico Progress Report, published in 2012, was the brainchild of former board member Carl Moore, Ph.D. We remain in his debt for inspiring this important work.
INTRODUCTION

About This Report

The New Mexico Progress Report is designed to broaden the understanding of residents and policymakers about important issues facing New Mexico. It is a “30,000 foot level” overview of four key policy areas affecting the state as a whole:

- Education
- Health
- Economy
- Water

Some believe that “what gets measured gets done.” This may or may not be true for everyone, but metrics certainly focus attention. Our intention is that people will use this report to help point the way forward, integrating efforts across party and policy lines.

Organizations in New Mexico, as in some other states, often work in silos, focusing on their own agendas. A recurring recommendation in New Mexico First events is the need for strategic, statewide planning. This practice suggests that groups in New Mexico can improve levels of cooperation. We hope this report helps people, organizations and policymakers work together toward common goals.

How This Report is Structured

The New Mexico Progress Report is the result of closely following the results of past town halls, and thus the best ideas of thousands of people in the state. This starting point, coupled with future-focused research, offers the structure for this report:

- Vision of the future in each policy area
- Goals and indicators of progress
- Actions that have been implemented

Indicators

This report does not offer every possible performance measure. Instead, our advisory committee selected a small number of indicators to illustrate whether New Mexico is making progress toward the overall vision and goals called for in our town halls. Throughout this report, we use green, yellow or red icons to illustrate progress.

QUALITIES OF GOOD INDICATORS

- Easy to understand by non-experts
- Clearly measure progress toward a specific goal
- Produced by a credible source, often nationally recognized
- Allows for comparison over time with national and state data, when useful
Regional comparisons are made when possible and appropriate. In many cases, we compare New Mexico to the other states in the Four Corners region because of their similar climate, resources and cultural diversity. They are also states with which New Mexico often competes economically. Texas is not included because it operates on a very different scale than the Four Corners states. Its economy is 17 times the size of New Mexico and considerably larger than the Four Corner states’ combined economies.

**FIGURE 1-1**
Comparison States

---

**Goals at a Glance**

For almost 30 years, New Mexico First has brought people to consensus on solutions to our state’s most difficult issues. The following goals reflect those New Mexicans’ aspirations for the future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 1</strong>: Engage parents and children to work together to achieve success in education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 2</strong>: Prepare our youngest children for school success.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 3</strong>: Ensure K-12 students thrive academically, with no differences in achievement based on race or ethnicity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 4</strong>: Graduate college students with the skills to compete and be successful in demanding work environments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 5</strong>: Ensure New Mexicans are healthy, without racial or ethnic disparities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 6</strong>: Make healthcare accessible and affordable for all New Mexicans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 7</strong>: Improve the overall health of New Mexicans through preventive activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 8</strong>: Provide adequate, high quality behavioral/mental health services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 9</strong>: Improve economic conditions, thus increasing household incomes and reducing poverty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 10</strong>: Diversify the economy to provide high-wage jobs and opportunities for entrepreneurs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 11</strong>: Maintain a regulatory and tax environment that enables business development and job creation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 12</strong>: Advance New Mexico as a leader in energy production and supply.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---
**Water**

| Goal 13: Reduce water use in New Mexico, and ensure consumption does not exceed legally allowable amounts. |
| Goal 14: Ensure forests, watersheds and waterways are healthy, providing safe water for humans and the environment. |
| Goal 15: Generate adequate water data and mapping, informing long-term planning. |
| Goal 16: Adjudicate and administer water rights fairly and efficiently |

**Moving Forward**

The following chapters lay out New Mexico’s status in addressing these goals. As you read, we hope you are inspired to ask, what policies would “move the needle” in each of these areas? What would it take to make New Mexico first?
NEW MEXICO OVERVIEW

Connections

New Mexico is, by its very nature, a land of scarcity. We indeed live in the desert, which means we do not have a drop of water to waste. But neither can we waste a drop of human potential to a failing school system, or lose a life prematurely to diabetes, or miss an opportunity to generate quality jobs that can lift our population from poverty to prosperity.

To address our scarcities, we have to face challenges in integrated ways. This report presents four sets of indicators – in education, health, economy and water – but New Mexico First firmly believes the issues are interdependent and closely linked. The rigor of education in our state directly influences the quality of healthcare, the vibrancy of the economy, and awareness of water or energy conservation. A family’s financial well-being affects members’ nutrition and children’s ability to excel in school. And the availability of a safe and sustainable water supply underlies the entire state’s economy and culture.

In addition to the issues being interrelated, so too are potential solutions and innovations. If we share information across disciplines, the strategies of patient-centered healthcare can apply to student-centered education. Workplace innovations that improve a company’s bottom line can boost the bottom line for struggling public schools. Long-range, strategic plans for economic development can inform and drive long-term education curriculum plans. Creative conservation mindsets that reduce water use can be applied to energy or economic savings.

How can New Mexico spark that type of collaborative innovation? How can we continue the important progress that courageous, hard-working people have been advancing for decades? By recalling that we may face a scarcity of water, math teachers, healthcare professionals or financial wealth, but we have no scarcity in courage, resilience, generosity or inventiveness. We are rich in natural resources and the deeply held wisdom of many cultures. If we believe we can make our state stronger, we will. Together, building on a web of connections, we can create a thriving oasis in our desert.

FIGURE 2-1

Intersections Between Policies

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

Another way to think about the intersection between policy areas is to focus on individual families. The conditions in which people live, sometimes called “social determinants,” affects individuals’ access to money, supports and other resources. Basic needs such as effective schools, healthy food, safe neighborhoods, transportation or economic opportunities shape our daily lives and contribute to our well-being.1

1 World Health Organization. (n.d.) Social Determinants.
Population Demographics

STATE POPULATION
New Mexico population growth slowed in recent years. The state population grew approximately one percent over the last five years, compared with three percent nationally. In 2013, population growth in New Mexico increased less than one-tenth of one percent from 2012, the fourth lowest population growth in the country. Our neighboring states all grew during the same time frame.

Limited population growth has positives and negatives. It might be a plus for utility planners supplying water for communities during recurring drought. However, a population that remains stagnant fails to bring in new people to spark innovation or contribute to the tax base that provides for the more vulnerable members of our state population.

FIGURE 2-2
Total Population, NM

FIGURE 2-3
Total Population, Four Corners States

---

2 NM Economic Development Department. (2014). New Mexico Demographics.
Populations By Race/Ethnicity
The United States is becoming increasingly diverse, and New Mexico particularly so. Unlike many states, even in the southwest, Whites comprise less than 50% of New Mexico's population. The most predominant ethnicity is Hispanic. In addition, the state has a considerable Native American population, representing 23 federally recognized tribes, pueblos and nations. This mix of cultures and traditions is a point of pride for New Mexico.

Figure 2-4
Population by Race/Ethnicity, NM7

Hispanic Population
In every corner of the United States, the Hispanic population has grown fastest and accounts for more than half of the nation's population growth, driven by births and immigration. Hispanics now constitute 16% of the nation's total population and 47% of New Mexico's population. This demographic is highlighted because it is the population segment experiencing the greatest degree of change. In addition, there are notable disparities in education and health affecting Hispanics—illustrated later in this report—which potentially affect a larger portion of the overall population in NM compared to other states.

FIGURE 2-5
Hispanic Population, Four Corners States

Population by Hispanic Origin Comparison
2013-14 Estimate

CHANGING GENERATIONS
New Mexico’s older population is growing in a manner that mirrors national trends. This number is expected to increase even more rapidly in the next decade with the aging of the “Baby Boomers.” Our population over 65 is projected to double in the next 20 years. This segment of society provides important skills and experience, but also needs adequate resources for support.

FIGURE 2-6
Aging Population, NM

NM Population Age 65+

It is interesting to consider, however, that “Millenials” (18 to 34-year-olds) now outsize Baby Boomers as the largest living generation in New Mexico and the nation. They are also the most ethnically diverse. This young generation, like the Baby Boomers, brings many skills and also significant needs. Millenials are more likely than in previous years to hold a bachelor’s degree or speak a second language, but are also more likely to be living with a parent or in poverty.12

RURAL POPULATION
New Mexico is the country’s fifth largest state by land mass, comprising 121,298 square miles. However, the state has only four cities with a population of 50,000 or more. There are only 17.2 people per square mile, making New Mexico one of the nation’s most rural states.13 Many of our residents must travel long distances to access basic needs such as grocery stores, supplies, medical services or jobs.

FIGURE 2-7
Rural Population Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Revenue Sources and Expenditures

New Mexico operates on a comparatively small budget and receives a sizeable amount of revenue from federal grants. The following three charts illustrate overall revenue sources, a break-down of the industries whose taxes underlie our economy, and state expenditures.

FIGURE 2-8
NM Revenue Sources (FY2013)

Revenue Sources, NM15

FIGURE 2-9
NM Revenue by Industry (FY2013)

Revenue by Industry, NM16

Application of This Information

The data in this overview section does not measure progress. It simply illustrates who we are as a state, how we are changing, where we get our money, and how we spend it. This cross-cutting data informs all the subsequent progress indicators.

---

17 Department of Finance and Administration. (2013). *State of New Mexico Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Fiscal Year ended June 30 2013.* Note: In the chart, “Education” includes programs in K-12, adult basic education, higher education, and state-mandated scholarships. “Educational institutions” includes operational funds for constitutionally established entities including the seven institutions of higher education plus the NM Military Institute and the state schools for the deaf and visually impaired.
EDUCATION

VISION FOR OUR EDUCATION FUTURE

New Mexicans have access to lifelong, quality learning opportunities that enable everyone to thrive and realize their potential.

GOAL 1: Engage parents and children to work together to achieve success in education.

INDICATOR: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRUANCY RATE

Finding a reliable indicator for parent engagement in their children’s education can be challenging. However, one way parents can have a significant impact on their children’s success is to reinforce the importance of education by ensuring good attendance habits. Studies have shown that students who are chronically absent, meaning they miss 10 percent or more of the school year due to excused or unexcused absences, are at risk academically, particularly in the early grades. These absences result in loss of instructional time, which translates into weaker reading skills. Attendance habits begin at home. Schools also play a role; student attendance is better in schools where parents feel welcomed and engaged.1

FIGURE 3-1

Elementary Truancy, NM2

NM Elementary School Truancy Rate

GOAL 2: Prepare our youngest children for school success.

INDICATOR: PRE-KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

Numerous studies demonstrate that children who attend quality early care and education programs show persistent gains on achievement tests and are less likely to repeat a grade in school or require special education. These children are also more likely to graduate from high school and avoid criminal activity. One way to measure progress with young children is to track the number enrolled in state-funded pre-k programs. As the following chart illustrates, New Mexico has made strong progress in the last decade, approaching the national average. (Note: Roughly 40 percent of all three and four-year-olds in the state are enrolled in some form of preschool, including child care, Head Start and New Mexico PreK.)

FIGURE 3-2

Pre-K Enrollment, NM and US


4 Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT. (n.d.). *American Community Survey, Table S1401.*

INDICATOR: READING PROFICIENCY

Children who read well are more likely to perform well in other subjects, such as math and science. Strong reading skills also predict the likelihood of graduating from high school and attending college, as well as secure employment and better wage earnings.6 The percent of fourth grade and eighth grade students in New Mexico who are proficient readers has remained about the same over the last decade.

---

**FIGURE 3-3**

Reading Proficiency, 4th Grade, NM and US7

---

**FIGURE 3-4**

Reading Proficiency, 8th Grade, NM and US8

---

7 National Center for Education Statistics. (n.d.). National Assessment of Educational Progress: Fourth Grade Reading Proficiency.
8 National Center for Education Statistics. (n.d.). National Assessment of Educational Progress: Eighth Grade Reading Proficiency.
INDICATOR: MATH PROFICIENCY

Competence in mathematics is the strongest predictor of long-term academic success.\(^9\) It is also essential in an increasingly technology-based world and workplace. Students with strong math skills are more likely to attend and complete college. Math proficiency is also related to higher levels of employability and influences higher levels of earnings.\(^{10}\) New Mexico made excellent progress in student math scores in the last decade, although 8th grade proficiency took a small dip in 2014.

---

\(^9\) Duncan et al. (2007.) Developmental Psychology.
GOAL 3: Ensure K-12 students thrive academically, with no differences in achievement based on race or ethnicity.

INDICATOR: ACADEMIC PROFICIENCY BY RACE/ETHNICITY
Achievement gaps matter, particularly when the educational disparities affect such large segments of the population. The state’s schools consistently see double-digit gaps in academic proficiency. The following chart provides one example, fourth grade math. As of 2013, similar gaps exist in fourth grade reading (31 percentage point gap between highest and lowest achieving groups), eighth grade reading (30 percentage point gap), and eighth grade math (29 percentage point gap).

FIGURE 3-7
Math Proficiency, 4th Grade, Race/Ethnicity
NM and US

HOLDING STEADY

INDICATOR: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

High school graduation usually leads to higher earnings for individuals, and greater productivity and economic growth for their communities. The median earnings of individuals with a high school diploma, even with no additional education, are roughly 40 percent higher than earnings of those who do not finish school.14

As the following two charts show, New Mexico’s overall high school graduation rate has climbed over the last decade, reaching 69 percent in 2014. We still fall short of the national average of 81 percent. New Mexico’s graduation rates were the lowest of all neighboring states, where 75 to 88 percent of students graduate.15 Further, the gap between ethnic groups is not closing.

FIGURE 3-8
HS Graduation Rate, Four Corners States and US16

FIGURE 3-9
NM High School Graduation Rate by Race/Ethnicity

17 NM Public Education Department. (n.d.). School Fact Sheets: High School Graduates by Ethnicity and Gender.
GOAL 4: Graduate college students with the skills to compete and be successful in demanding work environments.

HOLDING STEADY

INDICATOR: COLLEGE GRADUATION RATE

In recent decades, the United States steadily transitioned from a manufacturing economy to a knowledge economy. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, people with an Associate’s degree are twice as likely to have a job as those with only a high school diploma. People with a Bachelor’s degree are three times more likely to be employed. The employment rate for persons with Master’s, professional and doctoral degrees is the highest, at 96–98 percent.18

The following chart shows that New Mexico sits well behind our neighbors in college graduate rates, but none of the Four Corners states are experiencing steady increases.

![Higher Education Graduation Rate Comparison](image)

*FIGURE 3-10* HE Graduation Rate, Four Corners States and US19

---


**INDICATOR: NM STEM GRADUATES**

The fastest growing occupations in the U.S. require science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills, with health-related fields topping the list.\(^{20}\) In New Mexico, significant attention was devoted in recent years to increasing the number of college graduates with STEM degrees. The following chart illustrates steady progress; however, concerns exists that the number of retiring STEM professionals outpaces the number of new graduates.

---


21 NM Higher Education Department. (n.d.). *NMHED Data Reports.*
**INDICATOR: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

Currently, New Mexico has a less-educated populace than the surrounding states and the nation. The educational attainment of the labor force is one of the most important factors in the continuing economic development of the state. The number of jobs requiring a bachelor’s degree or higher is projected to grow faster than jobs requiring a high school degree or less. Higher rates of high school and college graduation for the current generation benefits the next generation as well. The level of education attained by parents improves their children’s lives. Educational attainment has been shown to be a key predictor of good health outcomes and lower mortality rates, lower teen pregnancy rates, fewer divorces, and lower crime rates.

**FIGURE 3-12**

Educational Attainment Comparison (Age 25+)

---


## What’s been done?

A range of education reform efforts have been undertaken in past years, some of which follow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Streamline Teacher Administrative Licensure bill passed, requiring the provision of an administrator license to applicants who meet specific educational standards. Higher Education common course naming/numbering bill passed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Pre-Kindergarten program piloted to three year olds. K-12 Breakfast After The Bell bill passed, requiring all school districts and charter schools with 85 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch to provide breakfast after the start of school. Legislative Lottery Scholarship Program modified, requiring students at four-year institutions to have a 2.5 GPA in their first term in order to qualify for the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Home Visiting Accountability Act passed, establishing statewide home visiting services using a standards-based program. Implementation began for the FOCUS tiered quality rating system for early childhood education programs. School Excused Absences for Pregnancy bill passed, requiring districts and charter schools to provide at least 10 days of excused absence for pregnant or parenting students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Tribal College Dual Credit Programs passed, providing funds to support high school students taking dual credit courses at tribal colleges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Early Childhood Care and Education Act passed, creating a foundation for an integrated learning system. New Mexico Early Learning Advisory Council established. New Mexico Common Core State standards adopted, requiring students to pass accountability assessments from third through eleventh grades. A-F school grading system implemented. Higher Education performance-based funding formula implemented, rewarding institutions for improving performance in granting certificates and degrees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>P-20 Education Data System bill passed. Hispanic Education Act bill passed. New Mexico School Leadership Institute established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>High school graduation requirements modified to include at least one credit from an honors, advanced placement, dual credit or distance learning class. Freshman Year Outcomes Report required. Student ID numbers required on high school transcripts. School Athletics Equity Act passed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>College and Workplace Readiness Assessments enacted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-09</td>
<td>High school redesign bills passed. Principal salary increases mandated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Dual credit and cyber-academy bills passed, enabling high school students to earn high school and college credit at the same time on selected courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Pre-Kindergarten Act passed, creating a voluntary state-funded preschool system. Legislation also passed ensuring public, post-secondary schools could not deny admission or in-state tuition to students on the basis of immigration status. The Commission on Higher Education became the Higher Education Department, a cabinet-level agency. The Funding Formula Study Task Force established to examine whether the constitutional requirement that “A uniform system of free public schools sufficient for the education of, and open to, all the children of school age in the state shall be established and maintained” was being met.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-08</td>
<td>Level I, II, III teacher salary increases finalized over a five-year roll out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Program funded so that child care teachers could access the professional development system. New Funding Formula, using an enrollment band, adopted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Kindergarten Plus established. No Child Left Behind enacted. Public School Reforms Act passed, establishing the three-tiered teacher licensuresystem, the assessment/accountability system for superintendents and principals, and the Office of Education Accountability. The Indian Education Act passed. Two constitutional amendments were created, increasing funding from the Permanent Fund to support education reform, establishing the Public Education Department as a cabinet-level agency, and replacing the NM Board of Education with the Public Education Commission. New Mexico Children’s Cabinet was established, creating collaborations across departments to maximize resources and track the well-being of children and youth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2001  NM Board of Education adopted policy on teacher quality. Beginning Teacher Mentoring passed.

2000  Full Day Kindergarten Program established and phased in over five years. Alternative Licensure Programs approved.


1998-2002 Lawsuit filed by Zuni, Gallup-McKinley and Grants School District, influencing the creation of Public School Capital Outlay Task Force and Public School Capital Outlay Council to oversee a new statewide capital outlay system based on adequacy standards to ensure school buildings and other facilities are equitably funded in all school districts.

1996  Legislative Lottery Scholarship Program established.
HEALTH

VISION FOR OUR HEALTH FUTURE

New Mexicans engage in healthy lifestyles, enjoy nutritious food, and have access to affordable, quality healthcare.

GOAL 5: Ensure New Mexicans are healthy, without racial or ethnic disparities.

GETTING WORSE

INDICATOR: ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

As a state, we obviously want our people to be healthy. Healthy people live higher quality lives; plus they contribute to a stronger educational system and economy. One of the most important predictors of lifelong health is a nutritious diet, especially among children. New Mexico ranks among the lowest in the nation (fourth from the bottom) for child hunger.\(^1\) As the following chart illustrates, our state is not making progress on this issue. Access to healthy food is particularly challenging in tribal and rural areas. (The government term for hunger is “food insecurity,” which is defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food, or nutritionally adequate food, for an active, healthy life for all household members.)

---

FIGURE 4-1

Child Food Insecurity, NM and US\(^2\)


INDICATOR: DIABETES DEATHS

In addition to wanting all New Mexicans to lead healthy lives, we also want to avoid disparities. Health disparities exist when members of certain groups do not benefit from the same health status as other groups. Disparities can occur along ethnic lines. However, disparities can also be related to socio-economic status, gender, access to healthcare and biological or behavioral factors. Disparities can be especially relevant for New Mexico, where access to healthcare is limited by high poverty rates and a dispersed population spread over a large geographical area.

Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the nation. Roughly 600 New Mexicans died of the disease last year. From 2000 to 2013 New Mexico diabetes death rates were 18–40 percent higher than the U.S. rates. Within our state, researchers see significant racial/ethnic disparities, particularly affecting Native Americans.

FIGURE 4-2
Diabetes Deaths, NM and US

---

INDICATOR: HEART DISEASE DEATHS
Heart health is a good measure of overall health. On this front, New Mexico is doing better than the nation and—including when broken down by ethnicity—heart disease deaths are declining. Positive changes in diet, smoking, and medical care all contribute to this change. However, a moderate disparity continues to exist for African Americans.

FIGURE 4-3
Heart Disease Deaths, NM and US

GOAL 6: Make healthcare accessible and affordable for all New Mexicans.

HOLDING STEADY

INDICATOR: HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ACCESS

There are three categories of Health Provider Shortage Area Designations (HPSA), Primary Care Medical, Primary Care Dental, and Primary Care Behavioral Health. Thirty-two of New Mexico’s 33 counties contain designated Health Professional Shortage Areas. Over 40 percent of the state’s population lives in a Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area. Because of this shortage, the majority of primary care practices are rated as “full or nearly full” in terms of the number of patients that can be seen. The low number and challenging distribution of all types of healthcare professionals is a barrier to healthcare access.

FIGURE 4-4

Healthcare Providers, NM and US

INDICATOR: HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Health coverage protects individuals and families from financial risks due to unexpected, costly expenses. Insurance also promotes preventive care such as regular check-ups, screenings and immunizations. Lack of coverage has been associated with delayed access to healthcare and increased risk of chronic disease and mortality.

Implementation of the Affordable Care Act, federal law that reformed healthcare in the United States, began in 2010 and rolls out through 2015. The primary goal of the legislation is to create near-universal health coverage across the nation. In New Mexico and the nation, the uninsured rate is steadily dropping. However, Hispanics and Native Americans are less likely to enroll than Whites, creating a coverage disparity that exists throughout the American Southwest. As of 2013, about 30 percent of Hispanics were uninsured nationally, compared with 11 percent of Whites.

10 NM Department of Health. (2013). 2013 Annual Report: NM Medical Board. Abbreviation Legend: Primary Care Physicians, PCP; Physician Assistants, PA.; Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, APRN; Registered Nurses, RN.; Licensed Practical Nurses, LPN.
GOAL 7: Improve the overall health of New Mexicans through preventive activities.

INDICATOR: CHILD IMMUNIZATION RATE
Many diseases can be prevented by vaccination, including childhood diseases such as measles or polio. Preventing a disease can reduce doctor visits, hospitalizations and premature deaths. Among children born in the United States between 1994-2013, vaccination is estimated to have prevented 322 million illnesses, 21 million hospitalizations and 732,000 deaths during their lifetimes. New Mexico has made very significant progress on child immunizations in the last six years.

MAKING PROGRESS

INDICATOR: ADULT SMOKING PREVALENCE
Smoking is the most preventable cause of premature death in the United States.\textsuperscript{18} Of the ten leading causes of death in New Mexico, six are associated with tobacco use. Heart disease, cancer and other chronic diseases are associated with tobacco. In New Mexico, the burden of deaths associated with smoking is considerably greater than the burden associated with alcohol and other drugs.\textsuperscript{19} The adult smoking rate has declined slightly in the last few years. (Note: Smoking rates prior to 2011 are not available due to a nationwide methodology change in how data is collected.)

FIGURE 4-7
Adult Smoking Prevalence, NM and US\textsuperscript{20}

GOAL 8: Provide adequate and high quality behavioral and mental health services.

GETTING WORSE

INDICATOR: MENTAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ACCESS
In 2012-13, the percentage of New Mexico adults who reported serious mental illnesses (4.3\%) was similar to the national percentage (4.1\%). Nearly half of all adults in the nation will have a diagnosable mental health condition in their lifetime. Health workers such as psychologists, licensed professional counselors, social workers, psychiatrists, psychiatric or advance practice registered nurses and certified peer support specialists can help people with behavioral or mental illness recover and lead productive lives in their communities.\textsuperscript{21} The following chart illustrates that about a quarter of mental health needs were met in New Mexico this year. The federal government determined “met need” by the ratio of population to mental health professionals. That figure is down from 30 percent in 2014, ranking us the lowest of the Four Corners states for this measure.\textsuperscript{22}

\textsuperscript{19} NM Department of Health. (2014). New Mexico Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile, pg. vii-viii.
\textsuperscript{22} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). Designated Health Shortage Areas Statistics.
FIGURE 4-8
Mental Healthcare Access, Four Corners States

FIGURE 4-9
Substance Abuse Deaths, NM and US

GETTING WORSE

INDICATOR: SUBSTANCE ABUSE DEATHS
New Mexico has had the highest alcohol-related death rate in the nation since 1997. The consequences of alcohol abuse are not limited to death, but also affect domestic violence, crime, poverty and unemployment. This abuse is also related to chronic liver disease, mental illness, motor vehicle crashes and other injuries. In 2006, the economic cost of excessive alcohol consumption in New Mexico was more than $1.9 billion, or $960 per person. In addition, New Mexico has the third highest drug overdose death rate in the nation.

24 NM Department of Health. (2014). New Mexico Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile.
What’s been done?

Policymakers and communities have taken action on various healthcare issues in recent years. This list does not include all health reforms, but represents an attempt to summarize major efforts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Health Information System Act amended, providing for the safe disclosure of certain health information, establishing a Health Information System Advisory Committee, and posting of information for public access.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>NM Centennial Care implemented, redesigning Managed Medicaid and integrating all Medicaid services into the managed care program, including physical health, behavioral health and long-term care services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Healthcare Reform Working Group charged with making recommendations on the creation of a health insurance exchange or other entity to implement federal health care reform. New Mexico Scientific Laboratories constructed, housing the Department of Health Scientific Laboratory Division and the Office of the Medical Investigator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Wellness in the Workplace report published, established by NM Joint House Memorial 24, addressing the cost and impact of chronic disease on the New Mexico workforce. UNM Cancer Treatment and Clinical Research Facility opened.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Healthy New Mexico Task Force formed and charged with devising a five-year strategic plan for implementing chronic disease prevention and management measures. Medical student financial support increased. New Mexico Health Professional Loan Repayment Program funding increased.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Legislation established cultural competence education requirements in health education programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Annual racial and ethnic health disparities report card established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Bill requiring a comprehensive strategic plan for health passed, emphasizing prevention, personal responsibility, access and quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>State Health Policy Commission created, providing independent research, guidance and recommendations on issues that impact the health status of New Mexicans. Prenatal care added to Medicaid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Rural Primary Health Care Act passed, funding basic primary care services in community programs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ECONOMY

VISION FOR OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE

New Mexico’s economy is diversified, growing and flourishing, with individuals, families and businesses thriving financially.

GOAL 9: Improve economic conditions, thus increasing household incomes and reducing poverty.

MAKING PROGRESS

INDICATOR: HOUSEHOLD INCOME

New Mexico’s median household income has increased steadily over the last fourteen years. However, it is still lower than the U.S. average and the lowest in the surrounding states. A high household income is an indicator of a prosperous local economy. It also demonstrates that residents have a higher level of purchasing power. This purchasing ability can attract new businesses to the area, which can lead to better employment opportunities for the workforce.

FIGURE 5-1

Household Income, NM and US

VISION FOR OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE

New Mexico’s economy is diversified, growing and flourishing, with individuals, families and businesses thriving financially.

GOAL 9: Improve economic conditions, thus increasing household incomes and reducing poverty.

MAKING PROGRESS

INDICATOR: HOUSEHOLD INCOME

New Mexico’s median household income has increased steadily over the last fourteen years. However, it is still lower than the U.S. average and the lowest in the surrounding states. A high household income is an indicator of a prosperous local economy. It also demonstrates that residents have a higher level of purchasing power. This purchasing ability can attract new businesses to the area, which can lead to better employment opportunities for the workforce.

FIGURE 5-1

Household Income, NM and US

VISION FOR OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE

New Mexico’s economy is diversified, growing and flourishing, with individuals, families and businesses thriving financially.
GETTING WORSE

INDICATOR: POVERTY

While the median income is rising, the percentage of people living in poverty is increasing. Roughly one in five New Mexicans live in poverty, and our national ranking for this measure has fluctuated between 48 and 50 for the past three years. Reducing the percentage of New Mexicans living in poverty would improve the living standards of our residents while contributing to the state’s overall economic vitality.\(^3\)

FIGURE 5-2

Poverty, NM and US\(^4\)

![Graph showing poverty rates over time for New Mexico and the United States.](image)

MAKING PROGRESS

INDICATOR: UNEMPLOYMENT

New Mexico’s unemployment rate increased more sharply than the national average during the 2007-2010 recession. It is decreasing, but more gradually than other Four Corners states. Our decline in unemployment is partly due to people exiting the labor force. There are over 9,500 fewer people in the New Mexico labor force than in 2009. They have presumably either retired, moved to other states, or chosen not to pursue employment.

It is also worth noting that unemployment varies greatly by region in the state. For example, Los Alamos and Eddy Counties have the lowest unemployment rates (five percent or less) while Luna and McKinley have the highest (14 percent and 11 percent).\(^5\) Targeted job creation or movement of job seekers between counties are possible strategies for increasing employment.

---


\(^4\) U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d).

GOAL 10: Diversify the economy to provide high-wage jobs and opportunities for entrepreneurs.

HOLDING STEADY

INDICATOR: INDUSTRY DIVERSITY

A diversified economy is one in which employment exists in multiple industries and is not concentrated in just a few types of businesses. Industry diversity contributes to economic stability. A diversified economy is typically less sensitive to volatile business cycles. The Hachman Index measures industry diversity based on private-sector employment data. New Mexico’s ranking is worse than our neighboring states because employment is concentrated in only a few industries as shown in following figures. Generally, the index values remain stable over time because employment concentrations shift gradually.7

TABLE 5-1. Industry Diversity National Rankings (Hachman Index)a

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State (#1=most diverse, #50=least)</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a NM Department of Workforce Solutions. (2014). NM Labor Market Review. 44 (6).

7 NM Department of Workforce Solutions. (2014). NM Labor Market Review. 44 (6).
The figure below provides additional context for the industry diversification indicator. A majority (57 percent) of New Mexico’s jobs are concentrated in the healthcare, retail trade, accommodation, food services, education and public administration industries. The figure also provides context for the status of the state regarding high-wage jobs. The industries that require science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills are among the highest paying. The four highest paying industry sectors constitute only 18 percent of the jobs in New Mexico. The NM Department of Workforce Solutions reports that one-third of New Mexico’s workers are employed in jobs such as office support, retail and food services, and are traditionally low-wage jobs.8

![FIGURE 5-4](image)

**NM Employment by Industry (2013)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Training School</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science &amp; Technology</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale &amp; Retail Trade</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance &amp; Insurance</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other &amp; Government</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Recreation</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An asterisk indicates highest paid industries.

---

**MAKING PROGRESS**

**INDICATOR: EXPORT-RELATED EMPLOYMENT**

New Mexico jobs supported by exports to other countries grew 107 percent over the last five years, ranking the state number one in the nation in trade-supported job growth. These jobs generally pay up to 18 percent more than non-export jobs. New Mexico’s export-related jobs are small compared with other states, but given our population size and traditional lack of a major manufacturing base compared to other places, the job growth is significant.10

Manufacturing jobs directly supported by exports are primarily computer and electronics, fabricated metal, machinery and transportation equipment. Service sector exports include travel, business, professional and technical services jobs.11 In 2014, New Mexico’s primary international trade partners for merchandise goods were Mexico and Israel.12 (Note: This indicator counts international exports, but most economic developers in our state are equally pleased with inter-state exports. A priority is to bring money into the state, via goods or services, from outside our state borders.)

---

FIGURE 5-5
Export-Related Employment Comparison

Entrepreneurship plays a vital role in the growth of the economy. If successful, entrepreneurial innovations improve living standards, create jobs, create wealth from the entrepreneurial venture, and stimulate related businesses. The Kauffman Index of Entrepreneurship ranks states by assessing new business start-ups, the percent of new entrepreneurs, and the number of start-up businesses divided by total population. According to this index, New Mexico ranks well in comparison to our neighboring states, steadily increasing since 2011. We rank third in the nation on the percent of the adult population that became entrepreneurs.

FIGURE 5-6
New Entrepreneur Rate

Another tool for assessing entrepreneurship capacity is venture capital funding. Investments in New Mexico have been relatively flat since 2009, with the state falling notably below other Four Corners states.

![Venture Capital Funding Comparison](image)

**FIGURE 5-7**

Venture Capital Funding, Four Corners States\(^\text{17}\)

---

**GOAL 11: Maintain a regulatory and tax environment that enables business development and job creation.**

---

**MAKING PROGRESS**

**INDICATOR: FISCAL & REGULATORY POLICY**

According to a George Mason University ranking of states by policies that shape economic climate, New Mexico’s national ranking is 27, a +12 improvement since 2009. This analysis looks at both fiscal and regulatory policies, including taxes, fiscal decentralization, government employment and spending, tort law, property rights, labor policies, and broadband.\(^\text{18}\)

**TABLE 5-2. Fiscal & Regulatory National Ranking\(^\text{a}\)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State (#1=best, #50=worst)</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) Ruger, W., Sorens, J. (2013). Mercatus Center at George Mason University. *Freedom in the 50 States.*

---

GOAL 12: Advance New Mexico as a leader in energy production and supply.

INDICATOR: ENERGY PRODUCTION AND FUTURE POTENTIAL

Energy industries occupy a key role in the state’s economy. For example, the oil and gas industry comprises roughly a third of New Mexico’s general fund; state fiscal planners estimate that each dollar drop in the price of a barrel of oil reduces the state budget by about $6 million. For this reason, oil and gas production—as well as reserves that inform future production—are important economic indicators in New Mexico. (The industry is also susceptible to large market swings, causing volatility for the state economy when oil and gas prices are down.) In addition to conventional energy, the state’s natural climate and already constructed facilities offer tremendous capacity for renewable energy production, primarily solar and wind.

Nationally, New Mexico is the fourth largest net-supplier of energy to the country, due primarily to oil and gas.19 The following table illustrates our national rankings for oil, gas and coal production (#1 being the state producing the largest quantity of energy). The table also shows national rankings (again with #1 being the highest) for built capacity to produce solar and wind. New Mexico’s overall energy ranking improved since last year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NM</th>
<th>AZ</th>
<th>CO</th>
<th>UT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total energy production</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil production</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural gas production</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal production</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind installed capacity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar installed capacity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable power generation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Excluding conventional hydropower

The previous table shows rankings for energy that the Four Corners states are producing today. However, energy is a long-term industry. The table below illustrates rankings for each state’s potential, based on what each could produce in the future using existing natural resources or conditions. With the exception of natural gas and coal, New Mexico has more potential for energy production than any other Four Corners states. However, major increases in renewable energy exports would rely on expansion of the national energy transmission grid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NM</th>
<th>AZ</th>
<th>CO</th>
<th>UT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proved oil reserves(^a)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proved natural gas reserves(^b)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recoverable coal reserves(^c)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uranium reserves(^d)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind potential(^e)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar potential(^f)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geothermal resources(^g)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) U.S. Energy Information Administration. (2013). *U.S. Crude oil and lease condensate proved reserves, reserves changes, and production.*

\(^b\) U.S. Energy Information Administration. (2013). *U.S. Crude oil and lease condensate proved reserves, reserves changes, and production.*


* No data reported. **U.S. Energy Information Administration combines CO, AZ, and UT. All three together do not equal NM’s uranium reserves.*
## What’s Been Done?

A range of reforms have been undertaken in an effort to stimulate economic development, some of which follow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>The trade office in Mexico City, established by the state and University of New Mexico, reinforced commerce and academic ties with Mexico.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>The first commercial geothermal electricity facility opened near Lordsburg, adding four megawatts of base-load geothermal capacity to the state’s renewable electricity mix, with another six megawatts planned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>The State Trade Export Promotion program, through the New Mexico Economic Development Department, began benefiting businesses through trade missions to different countries, workshops on exporting, and individual consulting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>The New Mexico Broadband Map, created by the New Mexico Department of Information Technology, enabled essential data on broadband availability, types of technologies, and telecommunication provider data. The Office of Business Advocacy was created to help businesses navigate the state regulatory and permitting process. The Union Pacific “Hub” Initiative, a $400 million project, expanded operations in the Southwest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>URENCO USA, near Eunice, began operation of gas-centrifuge uranium enrichment for power production. URENCO was the first U.S. nuclear project licensed in 30 years and is the only uranium-enrichment plant operating in the U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>The state phased down the “top” personal income tax rate, from 8 percent to 4.9 percent, making New Mexico’s maximum marginal income tax rate the seventh lowest in the country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Spaceport, the world’s first purpose-built commercial spaceport, was located 55 miles north of Las Cruces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>The Small Business Regulatory Advisory Commission was established, serving as an advocate for fair regulation of small business and reviewing the impact of regulations on small business in its annual report to the governor and legislature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>New Mexico Economic Development Department’s Office of International Trade was created, assisting New Mexico companies in the global marketplace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2008</td>
<td>Transportation infrastructure was expanded, resulting in the Big &quot;I&quot; freeway construction and renovation (2000-2002), RailRunner (2006-2008), Park and Ride bus systems (started in 2003) and highway expansions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) opened, disposing of the country’s defense-related transuranic radioactive waste.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Santa Teresa Port-of-Entry was expanded, providing access between Mexico and New Mexico and boosting manufacturing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>New Mexico Small Business Development Centers, with locations in 20 communities, began providing business planning, marketing, financing, start-up and entrepreneurial training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-2007</td>
<td>A number of tax credits intended to spur economic development and job creation have been implemented over the years: Electronic Card Reading Equipment (2007); Solar Market Development Tax Credit (2006); Small Business Research and Development Tax Credit (2005); Affordable Housing Tax Credit (2005); High Wage Jobs Tax Credit (2004); Job Mentorship Tax Credit (2003); Land Conservation Incentives (2003); Renewable Energy Production Tax Credits (2002); Film Production Tax Credits (2002); Technology Jobs Tax Credit (2000); National Laboratory Small Business Partnership (2000); Rural Jobs Tax Credit (1999); Welfare to Work Tax Credit (1998); Cultural Property Preservation Tax Credit (1984); Investment Tax Credit Act (1979).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Several micro-lending projects support small businesses through the efforts of organizations such as WESST CORP, Accion New Mexico and the Community Development Fund. The New Mexico Finance Authority enables funding for a wide array of projects generally considered to be economic development in nature. The Job Training Industry Partnership, an economic development tool, subsidizes classroom and on-the-job workforce training.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WATER

VISION FOR OUR WATER FUTURE

New Mexicans have access to safe, sufficient and clean freshwater supplies to support a vibrant, healthy economy and environment.

GOAL 13: Conserve water in New Mexico.

INDICATOR: TOTAL WATER USE

New Mexico is a land-locked state. Our water comes from precipitation (some of it hundreds of years old held in aquifers) or from river water that flows down from Colorado. Of the water received each year, an estimated 97 percent evaporates or is transpired by plants. We actively use the remaining three percent to meet human, economic, legal, environmental and groundwater recharge needs.

To meet those needs, New Mexico uses about 3.4 trillion gallons of water a day. Reflecting a pattern common in the United States, water use peaked in the state in 1980 and has declined since. We have a modestly growing economy, but as the following chart illustrates, that growth has not prevented an overall reduction in water use.

FIGURE 6-1

Water Use, NM

4 NM Office of the State Engineer. (n.d.). Water Use & Data Technical Reports.
INDICATOR: AGRICULTURAL WATER USE
Agriculture is the state’s dominant water user, diverting an estimated 80 percent of the water withdrawn from the state’s rivers and aquifers. Some of that water returns to aquifers or streams and is reused by other farmers or municipalities. For the last half century, New Mexico water use was roughly evenly split between groundwater and surface water. The following chart illustrates that the amount of water use by the industry declined slightly, while the percent of total water use increased.

FIGURE 6-2
Agricultural Water Use in NM

WHAT IS AN ACRE-FOOT?
The amount of water to cover one acre to the depth of one foot, or 326,851 gallons of water.

INDICATOR: WATER USE BY PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS
New Mexico municipal or public water use peaked in the mid-1990s at 350,000 acre-feet per year. Since then, total municipal water use in the state has declined, even as urban populations continued to rise. New Mexicans’ per capita water use in the 1990s averaged 225 gallons per person per day. By 2010, the most recent year for which data is available, that had dropped to 161 gallons per person per day. In particular, the cities of Albuquerque and Santa Fe have seen significant water use decline.

5 NM Office of the State Engineer. (n.d.). Water Use & Data Technical Reports.
6 NM Office of the State Engineer. (n.d.). Water Use & Data Technical Reports.
FIGURE 6-3
Water Use, Public Systems

![Graph showing water use by public systems from 1995 to 2010.](image)

- **Figure 6-3**

**HOLDING STEADY**

**INDICATOR: WATER USE BY COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

Most small businesses in New Mexico obtain their water from local utilities, just like homeowners. Some large industries, however, access their own water through privately held water rights. This type of water user is called “self-supplied” and may include restaurants, hotels, manufacturing plants, highway construction, oil and gas extraction, and other mining. Water use by this group of businesses has remained about the same in recent decades.

FIGURE 6-4
Water Use, Commerce and Industry

![Graph showing water use by commerce and industry from 1995 to 2010.](image)

8 NM Office of the State Engineer. (n.d.). *Water Use & Data Technical Reports*.


New Mexico First © 2015 47
GOAL 14: Ensure forests, watersheds and waterways are healthy, providing safe water for humans and the environment.

GETTING WORSE

INDICATOR: WATERWAY IMPAIRMENT
The quality of our lives is directly linked to the quality of our water. Water is easy to pollute but difficult to clean up. If water becomes contaminated, there are negative impacts for households, businesses and the environment. New Mexico’s Water Quality Standards designate uses for rivers, streams, lakes and other surface waters and establish benchmarks to protect those uses. Indicators of water quality impairment may include turbidity, high temperature, low dissolved oxygen, and the presence of nutrients, metals, e-colis, organics, or radionuclides above established standards. The charts below illustrate that more than half of the state’s streams and lakes were impaired in 2014; this level of impairment is somewhat worse than in 2010, which is the previous year for which data is available. In 2010, 49 percent of stream miles were impaired, along with 64 percent of lakes and reservoirs.

FIGURE 6-5
River and Stream Impairment, NM

NM Waterway Impairment (2014)
Rivers & Stream Miles With Impaired Water Quality

54% Impaired
46% Unimpaired

INDICATOR: DAMS WITH SAFETY DEFICIENCIES

Dams are critical structures that provide flood protection, domestic and irrigation water supply stability, hydropower, and recreation opportunities. Many dams in New Mexico are old and in need of maintenance and repair. The NM Office of the State Engineer’s Dam Safety Bureau inspects dams and reviews plans for repairs. The bureau regulates 300 dams, not including those managed by federal or tribal governments. Of the state-regulated dams, 152 are considered “high hazard potential dams,” meaning that failure of the dam could result in a loss of human life. The following chart illustrates the safety conditions of this specific classification of dam.

FUTURE INDICATOR: FOREST RESTORATION

When large fires burn out of control, they affect water quality for downstream users. For example, rivers and streams flowed with ash and charcoal for months after the 2011 Los Conchas Fire. This contamination affected fish, plants, wildlife and, of course, humans. It was very costly for downstream water utilities to prevent the fire debris from reaching public water supplies.

A strategy to address this issue is forest and watershed restoration, particularly when restoration involves thinning over-dense forests so they do not feed large, catastrophic fires. Presently no statewide metric exists that captures the total acreage of New Mexico forests that require thinning, the variety and efficacy of treatments, and the state’s overall progress toward the goal. Stakeholders agree such a metric is needed; once developed it will be published in this report.

GOAL 15: Generate adequate data and mapping, informing long-term planning.

INDICATOR: FRESHWATER AQUIFER CHARACTERIZATION

During a typical year, almost half of New Mexico’s water comes from underground aquifers. That’s about 1.7 million acre-feet of groundwater a year, pumped from the five major freshwater aquifers underlying New Mexico. During drought years, to make up for surface water shortfalls, even more groundwater may be pumped from aquifers. Our knowledge of these deep geological formations varies considerably. Understanding the nature and volume of these aquifers—including whether they are depleting, holding steady or rising—is an important activity for our state. This data can inform population, economic and environmental planning.

The following table and map illustrate New Mexico’s major aquifers and a score estimating the degree to which researchers have characterized each one—including water level, freshwater quality, and connection to surface water.

---


17 NM Office of the State Engineer. (2012). Water Use & Data Technical Reports.

18 Based on 2010 total groundwater use of 46 percent.
recharge. The level of available data on these aquifers has increased in recent years, but additional data is definitely needed for long-range water supply planning.

The table’s characterization scores are based on the following variables:

- **A**: Excellent data exists, informing strong monitoring and planning
- **B**: Partial data exists, informing some planning
- **C**: Major data gaps exist, seriously impairing long-term planning

**TABLE 6-1. NM Freshwater Aquifer Characterization, Completion Score**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NM Aquifer or Aquifer System</th>
<th>Characterization Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Plateau Aquifers</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Plains Aquifer (including the Ogallala Formation)</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pecos River Basin</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Grande Aquifer System</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell Basin Aquifer System</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FIGURE 6-9**

Major NM Aquifers

---

FUTURE INDICATOR: BRACKISH WATER BASIN CHARACTERIZATION

New Mexico receives about 13.5 inches of rain a year, and less during periods of extreme droughts. Several rural communities face serious questions about their water supply, and researchers predict worsening water scarcities for the state in the coming years. Some drought-affected areas in the U.S., including southern Texas, supplement their freshwater supply by pumping and purifying brackish water.

Brackish water is too salty for human consumption, but large volumes of it exist in New Mexico in deep underground basins. Basins are geological formations that hold groundwater or surface water; the freshwater aquifers mapped above contain multiple basins. The map below illustrates approximate locations of brackish water basins of interest. The volume, salinity and accessibility of those basins is largely unknown. Any existing data comes from a diverse range of historic reports, not a single source that would give an adequate estimation of brackish water in the state. In addition, the potential economic and environmental impacts of extracting and using water from those aquifers also requires additional research. Before New Mexico can seriously consider diversifying its water supply with brackish water, it must better understand these variables.

Currently, no metric exists in NM for characterizing brackish water basins, but researchers agree it must be developed. Once the metric is available, it will be published in this report.

FIGURE 6-10

Approximate Locations of Brackish Water Basins of Interest

---

21 S. Fernald, personal communication, October 1, 2015

New Mexico First © 2015
GOAL 16: Manage the state’s legal water matters fairly and efficiently.

**INDICATOR: WATER RIGHTS ADJUDICATIONS**

Water rights provide the legal authority to use a specific amount of water at a specific location. However, owning a right to the water does not guarantee the water will actually be available. Droughts, floods or diminished water tables occur without regard to human laws. When water is scarce, it legally goes first to holders of the most “senior” water rights (those whose legal claim is the oldest). “Junior” water rights holders have to wait their turn, and there may not be enough to go around. This system, called “prior appropriation,” exists on the assumption that the amount and seniority of the water rights are legally clear.

Unfortunately, that clarity does not exist for many water rights holders. Over 72,000 defendants await settlement of their water rights in New Mexico. The adjudication process has seen progress in recent years, with about two-thirds of the involved acreage settled (almost 300,000 acres). However, it remains a slow undertaking, involving land owners in multiple counties plus 18 tribes or pueblos.\(^3\)

**FIGURE 6-11**

![Water Rights Adjudications, Percent Settled\(^2\)](image)

**TABLE 6-2. Summary: New Mexico Water Rights Cases\(^a\)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total Acres</th>
<th>Adjudicated Acres</th>
<th>Percent of Acres Adjudicated</th>
<th>Number of Defendants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern NM Adjudications</td>
<td>112,435</td>
<td>77,271</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>39,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern NM Adjudications</td>
<td>127,354</td>
<td>42,794</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>18,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pecos Adjudications</td>
<td>206,816</td>
<td>178,753</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>14,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>446,605</td>
<td>298,818</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>72,289</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) NM Office of the State Engineer. (2014). *Adjudication Data From 2011.*

\(^3\) Utton Transboundary Resources Center. University of New Mexico School of Law (2014). *Water Matters! Adjudications.*

INDICATOR: WATER COMPACT COMPLIANCE

A major demand on New Mexico’s water supplies is the obligation to deliver water to other states under interstate compacts. (Interstate compacts are legal agreements between states on how to share natural resources within specific river systems.) While these deliveries are most often seen as an encumbrance on New Mexico water users, the compacts provide certainty about how much water we can use. Meeting delivery requirements requires active, vigilant management. Compact deliveries are also impacted by precipitation, the physical condition of the rivers, and the draw-down of groundwater basins connected to these rivers.

There are eight interstate water compacts affecting New Mexico, but the two with the greatest impact on the most citizens are the Rio Grande and Pecos. The following table illustrates the credit—or over-delivery amount—from the last six years. The annual over-delivery target for the Pecos is 100,000 acre-feet; the target for the Rio Grande is zero or more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 6-3. Major Interstate Compact Delivery Surpluses (in acre-feet)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2009</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pecos River Compact delivery credit, to the state-line, at the end of calendar year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Grande River Compact delivery credit, to Elephant Butte Lake, at end of calendar year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It should be noted that Texas alleges New Mexico fails to deliver enough water across the state border, 105 miles south of Elephant Butte. In 2013, Texas filed a U.S. Supreme Court lawsuit on the matter; the case is expected to remain pending for several years.
What’s been done?

A range of water policy reforms have been undertaken in past year, some of which follow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>The state approved new rules on reusing produced water from oil and gas extraction. The Forest and Watershed Restoration Act passed legislature; not approved by the executive branch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Law passed clarifying pueblos’ ability to lease adjudicated water rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Legislature broadened the authorized uses of the Water Conservation Fund and required rulemaking for determining which contaminants would be tested and paid for by the fund. State law was also amended to require developers of land, on which irrigation water rights have been severed, to prove adequate water supplies before approval of the subdivision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Senate memorial called for research and public input on water rights adjudications; multiple public hearings were conducted but without consensus on expediting the process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Legislature expanded the ways the NM Interstate Stream Commission can acquire water rights to fulfill interstate water compacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>State law was amended to encourage agricultural water conservation by ensuring that conservation would not affect the value or quantity of the owner’s water rights. Separate legislation amended state law to allow the Interstate Stream Commission to use Strategic Water Reserve funding for infrastructure related to the reserve. The legislature also expanded the zoning authority for counties and municipalities to preserve or protect their water supply. State law limited the State Engineer’s authority to appoint a water master only in the case of a request by a voting majority of water users in a district. (Water masters appropriate, regulate and control waters in a district to prevent waste.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>State law extended eligibility to school districts for a 40-year water planning period, supporting schools’ abilities to acquire future water rights. (The ability was already afforded to municipalities and counties.) Aamodt and Taos water rights settlements signed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>The Strategic Water Reserve was established and provided for the purchase, lease or donation of surface water or water rights to help the state fulfill interstate water compacts and address streamflow needs of threatened or endangered species. The Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund was created. And the Navajo Nation water rights settlement signed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Arizona Water Settlement Agreement signed by the President, prompting a decade of water supply deliberations in southwestern New Mexico regarding the Gila River.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>The State Water Plan Act called for the establishment of a state plan and the integration of the 16 regional plans. Prior administration legislation was enacted, making explicit the State Engineer’s authority to administer water rights based on priority dates of permit applications. The bill laid the foundation for the Active Water Resources Management (AWRM) program. This program led to a nine-year legal battle, settled in 2012 by the N.M. Supreme Court, declaring AWRM constitutional.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>The Water Trust Board was established to administer selected water funds and recommend projects for financing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Utton Transboundary Resources Center established.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONCLUSION

New Mexico is changing, and for the better. The richness of our diversity is growing; more young children receive quality early childhood education; entrepreneurship is on the rise; more of our people have health insurance; and we are actively protecting the lifeblood of our state – water. However, our challenges remain significant. This report spotlights some of our new victories and biggest hurdles.

In education, we see a mix of worrisome and promising trends. Some families continue to struggle to get their children to school, resulting in troubling truancy rates that have not improved. Many of our students continue to struggle with math and reading. As they get older, almost a third do not complete high school, and, of students who enter college, only 40 percent complete their bachelor’s degree within six years. However, we see bright spots with increased enrollment in pre-kindergarten programs and increased numbers of college STEM graduates. These indicators point to the urgency of engaging parents and helping children develop a true love for school. They also suggest that we continue to prepare and retain terrific teachers, thus helping to raise student proficiency across the board. And we must work together to close achievement gaps for all students from all cultural backgrounds.

In health, our state struggles with the most basic building block, access to healthy food – especially among children. This challenge contributes to another, diabetes. More of our people die of this disease than the national average, particularly Native Americans. In addition, substance abuse deaths in New Mexico are increasing, related to both alcohol and illegal drugs. Our state lacks the capacity to tackle these and other health challenges as aggressively as we might like, because we struggle to recruit and retain enough healthcare and mental health professionals. That said, there is good news. Preventive healthcare appears to be working in New Mexico. Heart disease deaths are declining, fewer people smoke, and child immunization rates continue to improve. All these variables suggest that New Mexico must expand the ways people access healthy foods, invest in substance abuse and chronic disease prevention, and continue to support the next generation of healthcare professionals.

These activities can also support the economic well-being of struggling New Mexico families, particularly the fifth of our state living in poverty. Other economic challenges include a state employment base that is not nearly as diverse as neighboring states, far fewer venture capital investments to finance innovation, and 9,500 people have dropped out of the workforce since 2009. The good news is that a lower percentage of our people are unemployed compared five years ago, the portion of economy devoted to international exports is increasing, and our rating for a healthy business climate is improving. We also continue to be an important energy producer, both conventional and renewable. If the nation’s transmission grid were expanded, our capacity to export energy would increase even more.

That said, economic growth in New Mexico is impossible without adequate water to support businesses, families and the environment. Our overall water use has declined in recent years – with laudable water conservation by families and municipalities. Agricultural and industrial water use has held relatively steady. We remain in compliance with all interstate water compacts, meeting our legal and ethical obligations to deliver water to our neighbors. However, our overly dense forests consume large volumes of water and increase the likelihood of catastrophic wildfires that can pollute water supplies, hurt our economy and damage the environment. Additionally, well over half our rivers and lakes are impaired by various types of pollution. The safety conditions of our state-regulated dams are worsening, a reality that places people, the economy and the environment at risk. And our ability to plan for the future is hindered by the need for better and more integrated groundwater data.

These four interconnected areas – education, health, economy and water – create a foundation for New Mexico’s future. As a state, we are two million people who can bring about remarkable changes. Given the strength of our families, cultures, businesses and values, we can solve our problems while preserving what makes us unique in the nation and world.
Index

A
Adjudication process, 53
Affordable Care Act, 31
Alcohol abuse, 34
Aquifers
  Brackish water, 52
  Freshwater, 50

B
Breakfasts, school, 26
Broadband, 44

C
Capital outlay
  Public schools, 27
Charter schools, 27
Child immunization, 32
Children’s Cabinet, 26
College and workplace readiness assessments, 26
Constitutional amendments, 26
Cultural competence education, 35
Cyber academy, 26

D
Dams, 49
Demographics, 11
Diabetes, 29
Disparities
  Education, 21
  Health, 35
Dual credit, 26, 26

E
Early childhood, 18
Early Childhood Care and Education Act, 26
Economic vision, 36
Educational attainment levels, 25
Energy
  Capacity, 42
  Production, 42
Entrepreneurs, 40
Entrepreneurship, 40
Ethnicity
  High School Graduation, 22
  Population, 12
Expenses, state, 16
Export jobs (see Economic base)

F
Food insecurity, 28
Forest fires, 50
Four Corners states, 8
Full day kindergarten, 27

G
George Mason University, 41
Geothermal energy, 44
Graduation
  College, 23
  High School, 22

H
Hachman Index, 38
Health insurance, 31
Health Professional Shortage Areas, 31
Health vision, 28
Healthcare providers, 31
Healthy food, 28
Healthy New Mexico Task Force, 35
Heart disease, 30
High school redesign, 26
Higher Education Department establishment, 26
Home Visiting Accountability Act, 26
Hunger, 28

I
Indicator qualities, 7
Industries, state economy, 15
Industry diversity, 38
International Trade Office, 44
Intersections between policies, 10
Interstate water compacts, 54

K
Kaufman Index, 40

L
Lottery scholarship, 27

M
Math proficiency, 20
Median household income, 36
Mental health professional shortage area, 33
Mexico City
  Trade office, 44
Micro-lending, 44

O
Oil and gas
  Production, 42
  Reserves, 42

Funding formula
  Education, 26
P
P-20 Education Data System, 26
Pecos River Interstate Water Compact, 54
Policy outcomes
   Economy, 44
   Education, 26
   Health, 35
Pollution
   Rivers and lakes, 48
Population, 11
   Age, 13
   Hispanic, 12
   Overall, 11, 11
   Rural, 14
Poverty, 37
Poverty rates, 37
Pre-Kindergarten Act, 26
PreK, New Mexico, 18
Reading proficiency, 19
Regulation, 41
Renewable energy
   Potential, 42
   Production, 42
Revenue sources, 15
Rio Grande Interstate Water Compact, 54
Rural health, 35
Santa Teresa Port-of-Entry, 44
School Athletics Equity Act, 26
Small Business Development Center, 44
Small Business Regulatory Advisory Commission, 44
Smoking, 33
Social determinants, 10
Spaceport, 44
State Health Policy Commission, 35
State Trade Export Promotion, 44
STEM (science, technology, engineering, math), 24
Student ID numbers, 26
Substance abuse, 34
Tax credits, 44
Teachers
   Licensure, 26
   mentoring, 27
Texas, 8
Three-tiered teacher licensure, 26
Transportation infrastructure, 44
Truancy, 17
Unemployment, 37
Vaccination, 32
Vision
   Water, 45
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, 44
Water compacts, 54
Water rights, 53
Water use
   Agriculture, 46
   Commerce & industry, 47
   Municipal, 46
   Total, 45
Watershed restoration, 50
Waterway impairment, 48
Workforce
   Health, 31
   Workplace wellness, 35
Zuni lawsuit, 27