

New Mexico's Young Children: Their Needs, Our Future

**A Report Prepared For
The New Mexico Legislative Education Study
Committee**

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Senator Cynthia Nava, Vice Chair
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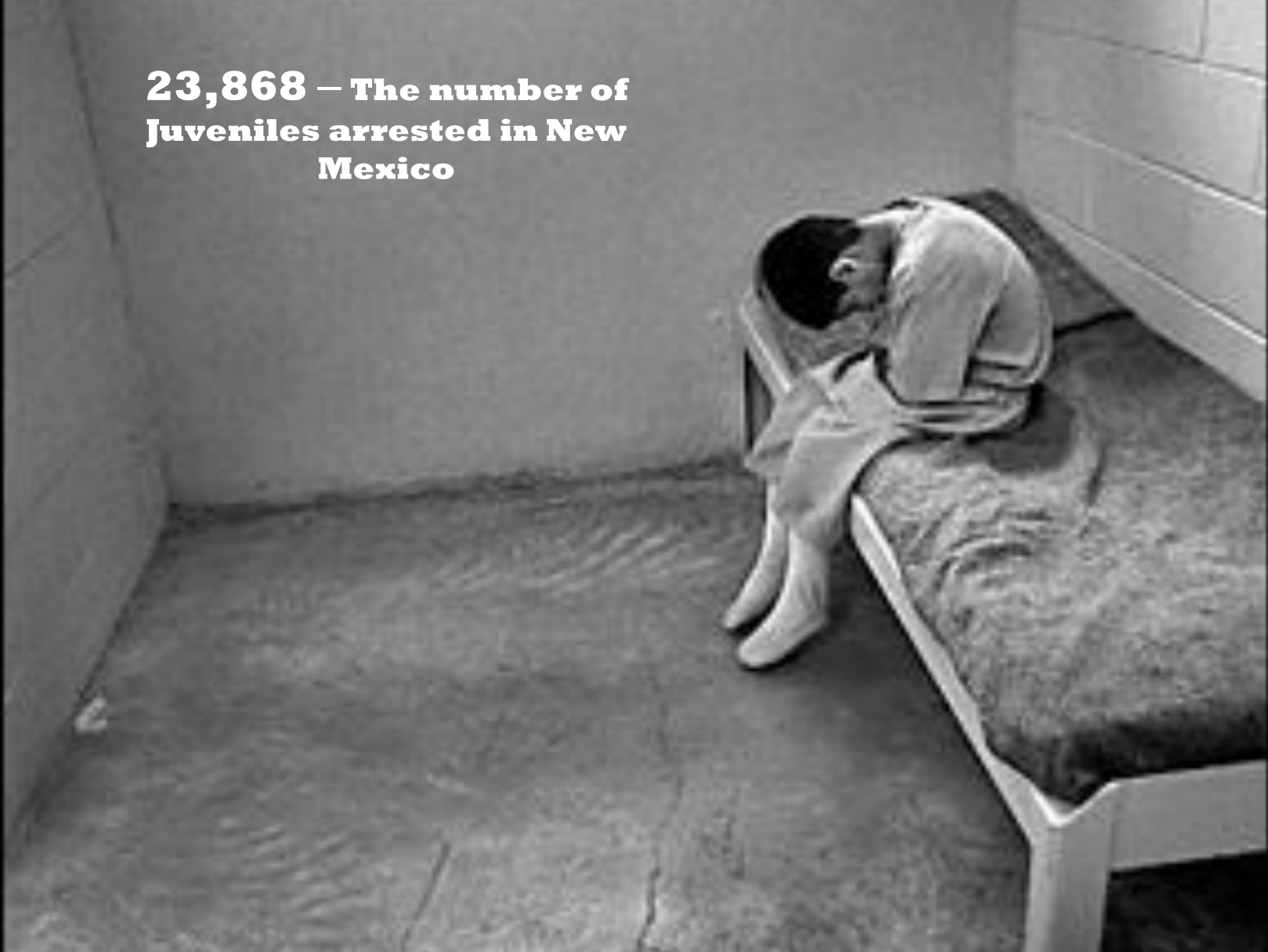
New Mexico's Children, Families and Communities: A Long and Proud Heritage

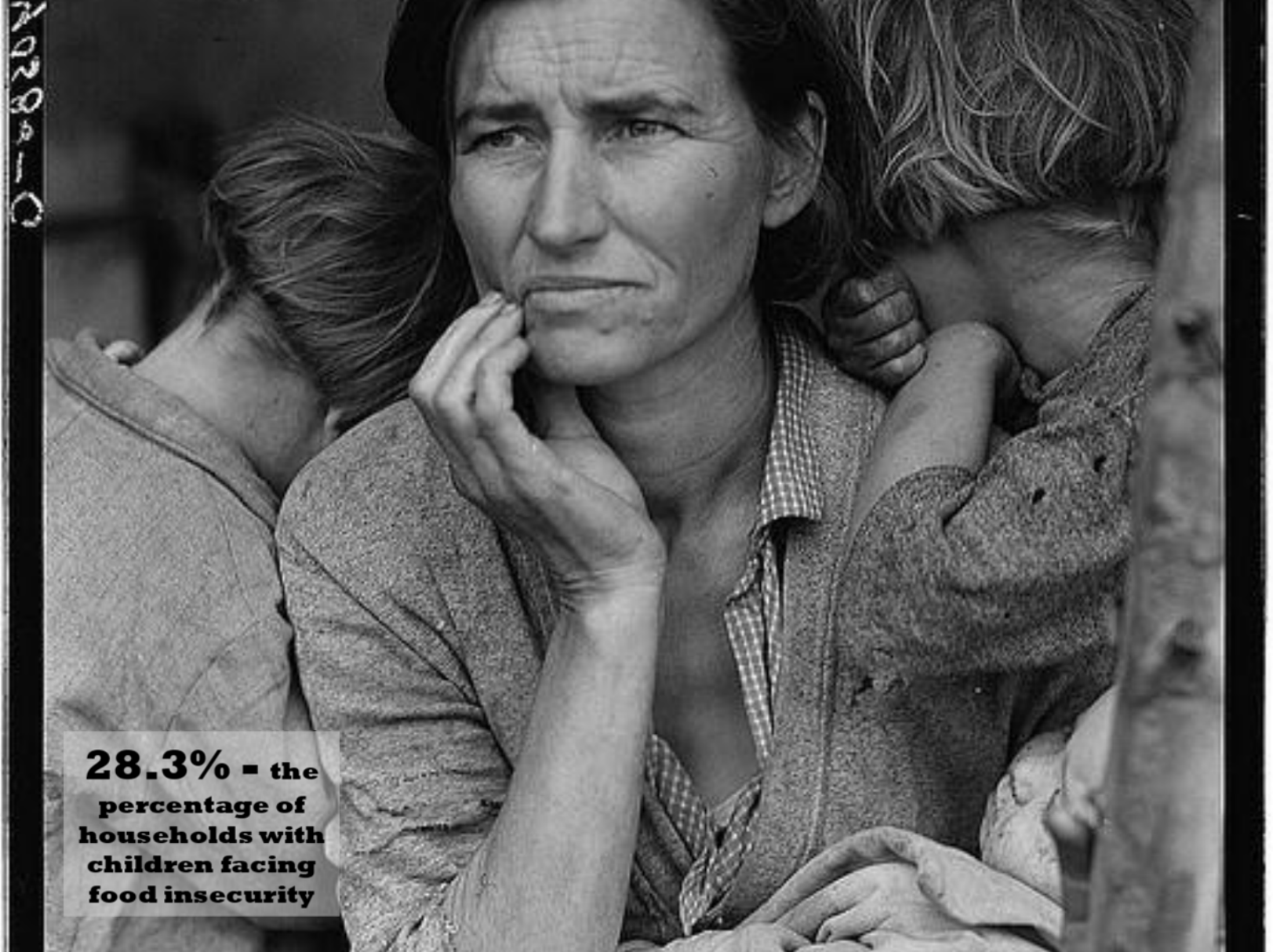
- **New Mexicans are deeply committed to our children, families, and communities.**
- **In the past two decades, we have been strengthening our collaboration among state agencies and private enterprise in early childhood support and development.**
- **SB120: The Early Childhood Care and Education Act and the Race To The Top Early Learning Challenge Grant.**
- **Together, we face tough challenges that can weaken our families and communities and threaten our future:**
 - **Percent of low-birth-weight babies**
 - **Infant mortality rate**
 - **Child death rate**
 - **Teens death rate**
 - **Teen birth rate**
 - **Percent of teens not in school and not high school graduates**
 - **Percent of teens not attending school and not working**
 - **Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment**
 - **Percent of children in poverty**
 - **Percent of children in single-parent families**

**New Mexico is
ranked 46th in the
country for overall
risks to children.**



**23,868 – The number of
Juveniles arrested in New
Mexico**





28.3% ■ the
percentage of
households with
children facing
food insecurity

**“ Education is the
most powerful
weapon which you
can use to change
the world.”**

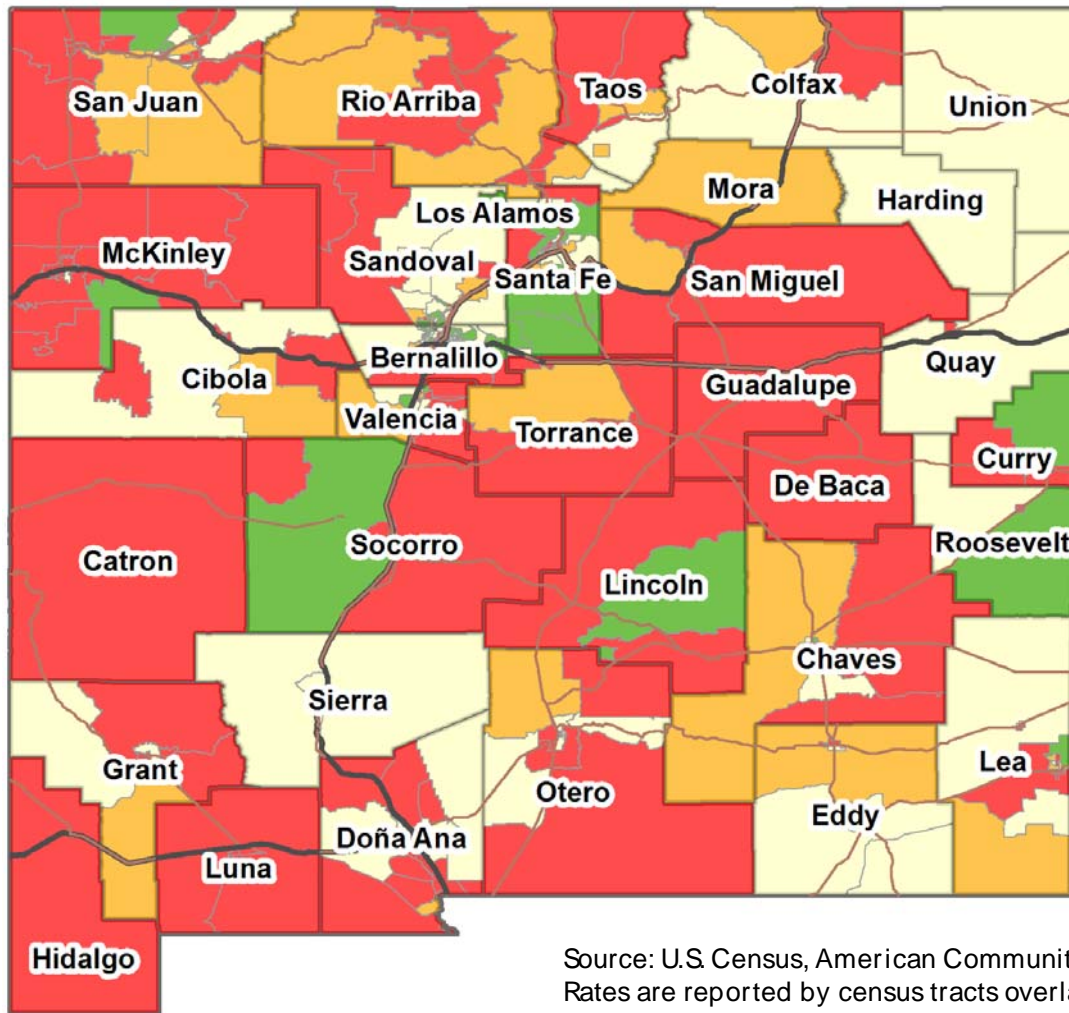
Return On Investment

Average Lifetime Per-Person Costs Of Bad Outcomes

Outcome	Estimated Tangible Cost	Reasons
Child Abuse	\$30,000	Medical health care, foster care
Teen Parenthood	\$120,000	Medical care, social assistance, abuse, neglect
High School Dropout	\$250,000	Lower earnings and benefits
Illegal Drug Abuse	\$250,000	Treatment and medical care
Alcohol Abuse	\$230,000	Medical problems, car crashes, lost productivity.

Source: "Paying Later: The High Costs Of Failing To Invest In Young Children".
The Pew Center on The States, January 2011

Percentage Of Families with Children with Income Less than 100% of the Federal Poverty Level



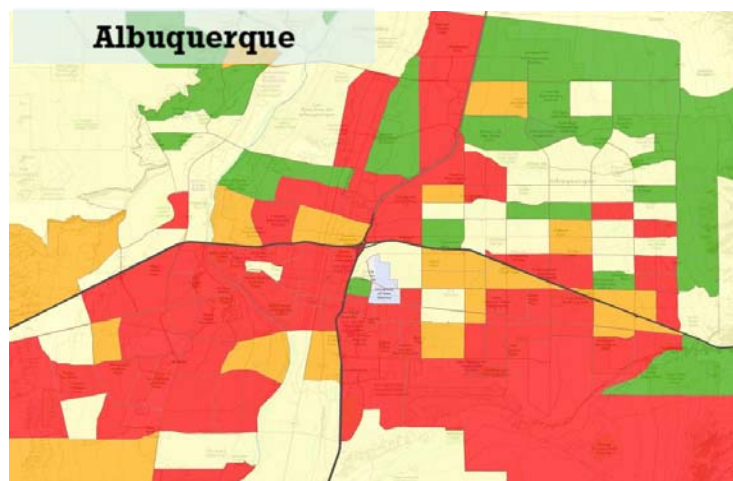
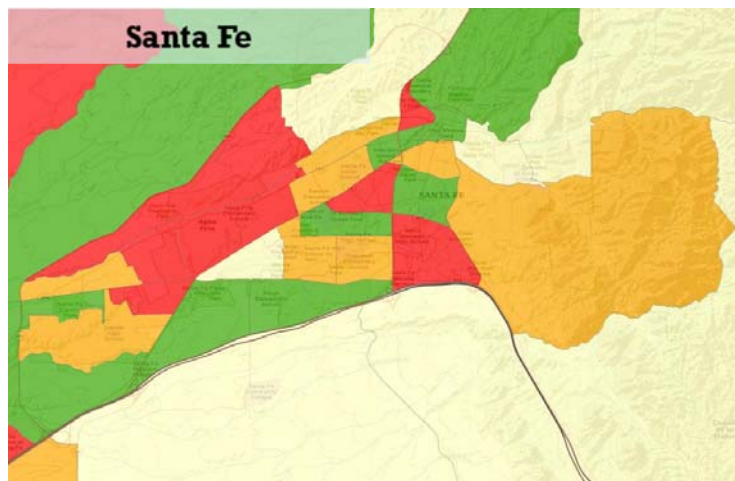
This map shows that most counties across New Mexico have communities facing the challenges of poverty.

Percentage of Families with Children with Income Less than 100% of the Federal Poverty Level

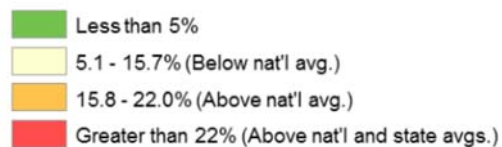
- Less than 5%
- 5.1 - 15.7% (Below nat'l avg.)
- 15.8 - 22.0% (Above nat'l avg.)
- Greater than 22% (Above nat'l and state avgs.)

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2010, Five Year Estimates. Rates are reported by census tracts overlaid with county boundaries. National Average = 15.7%; State Average=22%. Children defined as under 18 years of age.

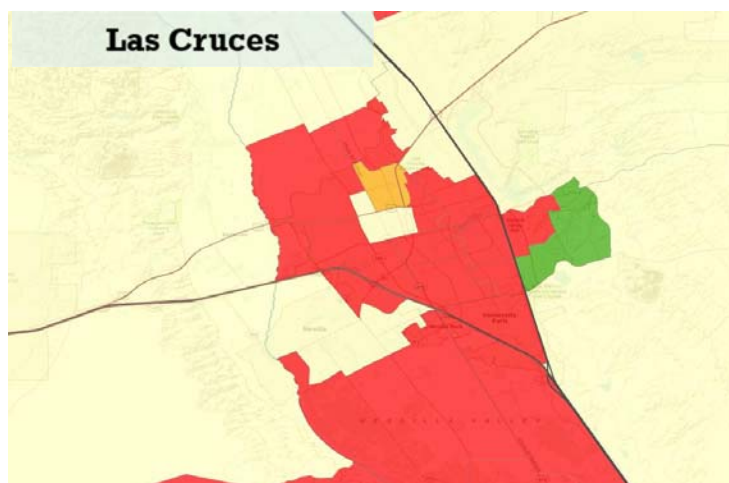
The Challenges of Poverty Are Both Urban and Rural



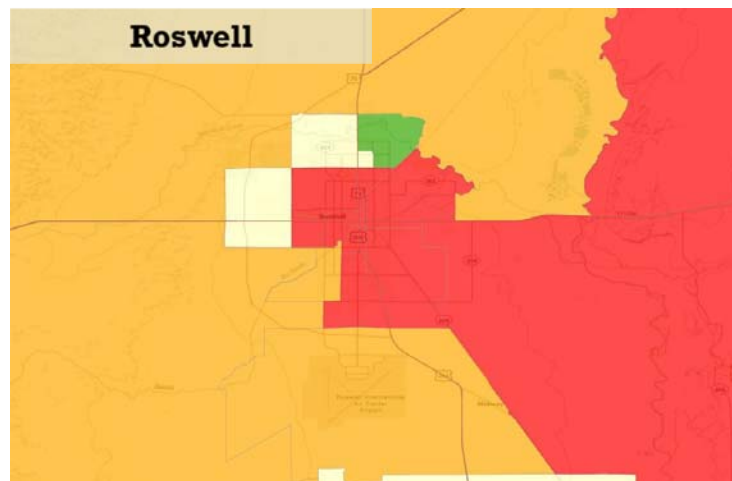
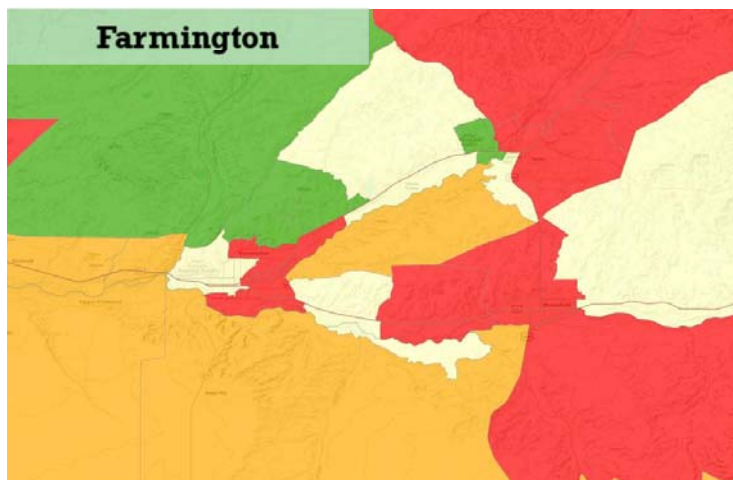
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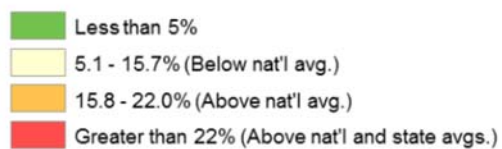
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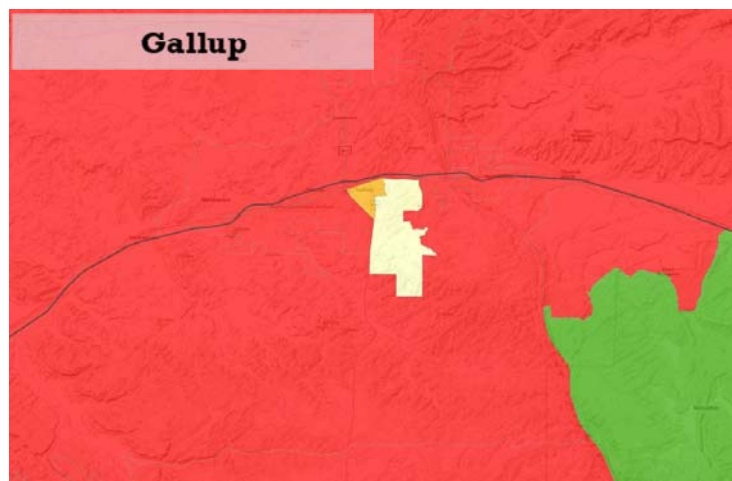
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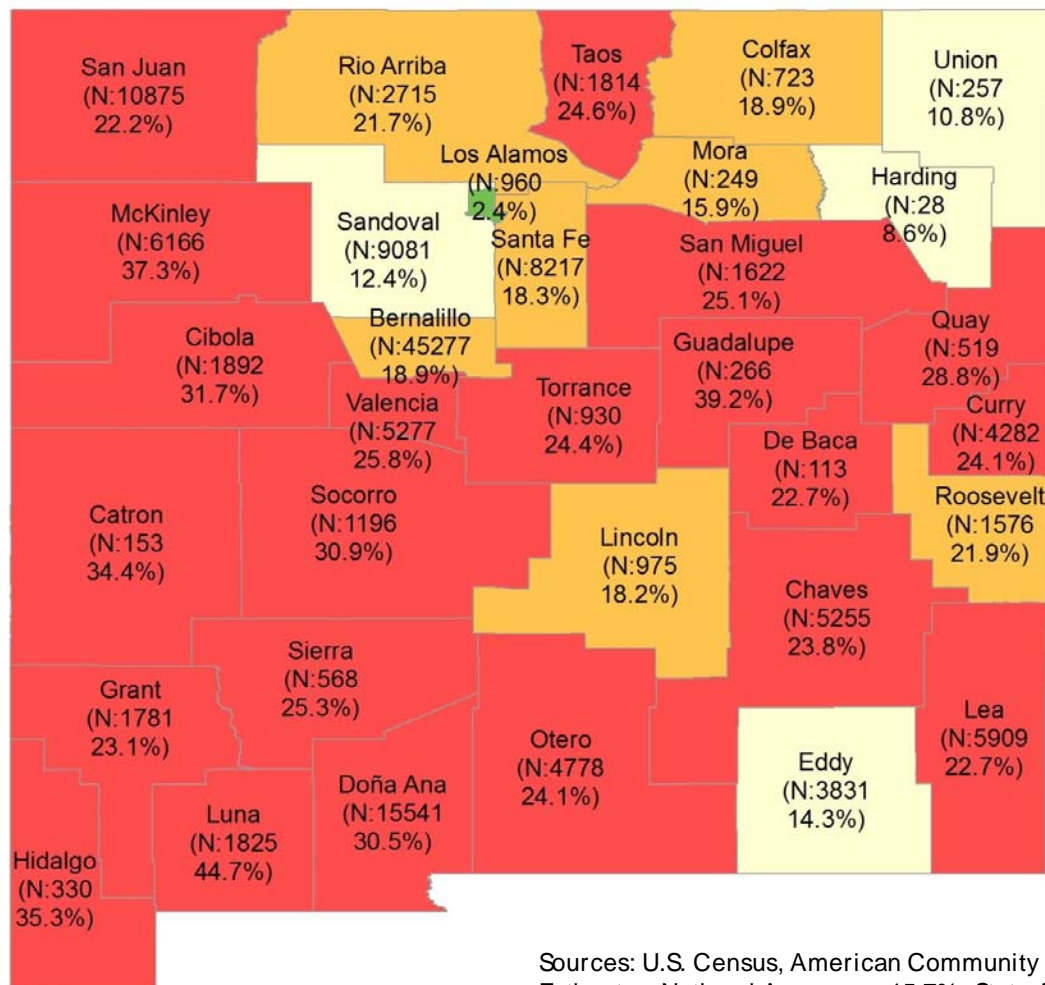
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Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2010, Five Year Estimates. National Average = 15.7%; State Average=22%. Children defined as under 18 years of age.



What Do We Know About Children and Poverty?



New Mexico has about 144,981 children under the age of five. This is about 7% of the state's total population of 2,059,179.

About 25.8% of these children live in poverty. The county percentages range from 44.7% in Luna County to 2.4% in Los Alamos County. All but five of New Mexico 33 counties have poverty rates higher than the national average.

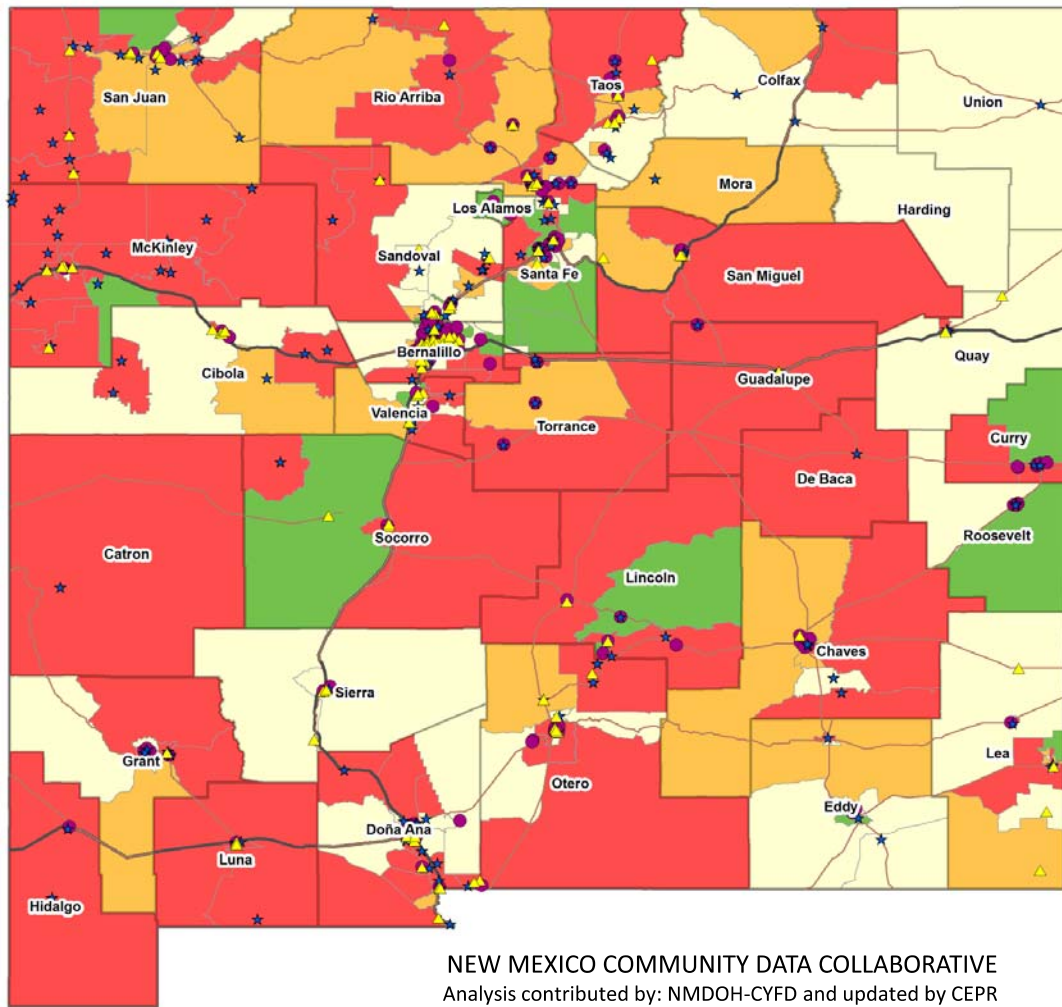
N= Number of Children Under 5 In That County. %=Number of Families with Children with Income Less than 100% of the Federal Poverty Level

Percentage of Families with Children with Income Less than 100% of the Federal Poverty Level

- Less than 5%
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Sources: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2010, Five Year Estimates. National Average = 15.7%; State Average=22%. Children defined as under 18 years of age.

Head Start, Pre-Kindergarten and Child Care Sites in New Mexico



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- Pre-Kindergarten Sites
- Head Start Centers
- 4 & 5 Star Licensed Child Care Facilities

NEW MEXICO COMMUNITY DATA COLLABORATIVE
Analysis contributed by: NMDOH-CYFD and updated by CEPR

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2010, Five Year Estimates. National Average = 15.7%; State Average=22%. Children defined as under 18 years of age.

How Can We Use Data To Make A Difference?

If We Know Where The Young Children Are...

If We Know The Challenges Those Children And Their Families Face...

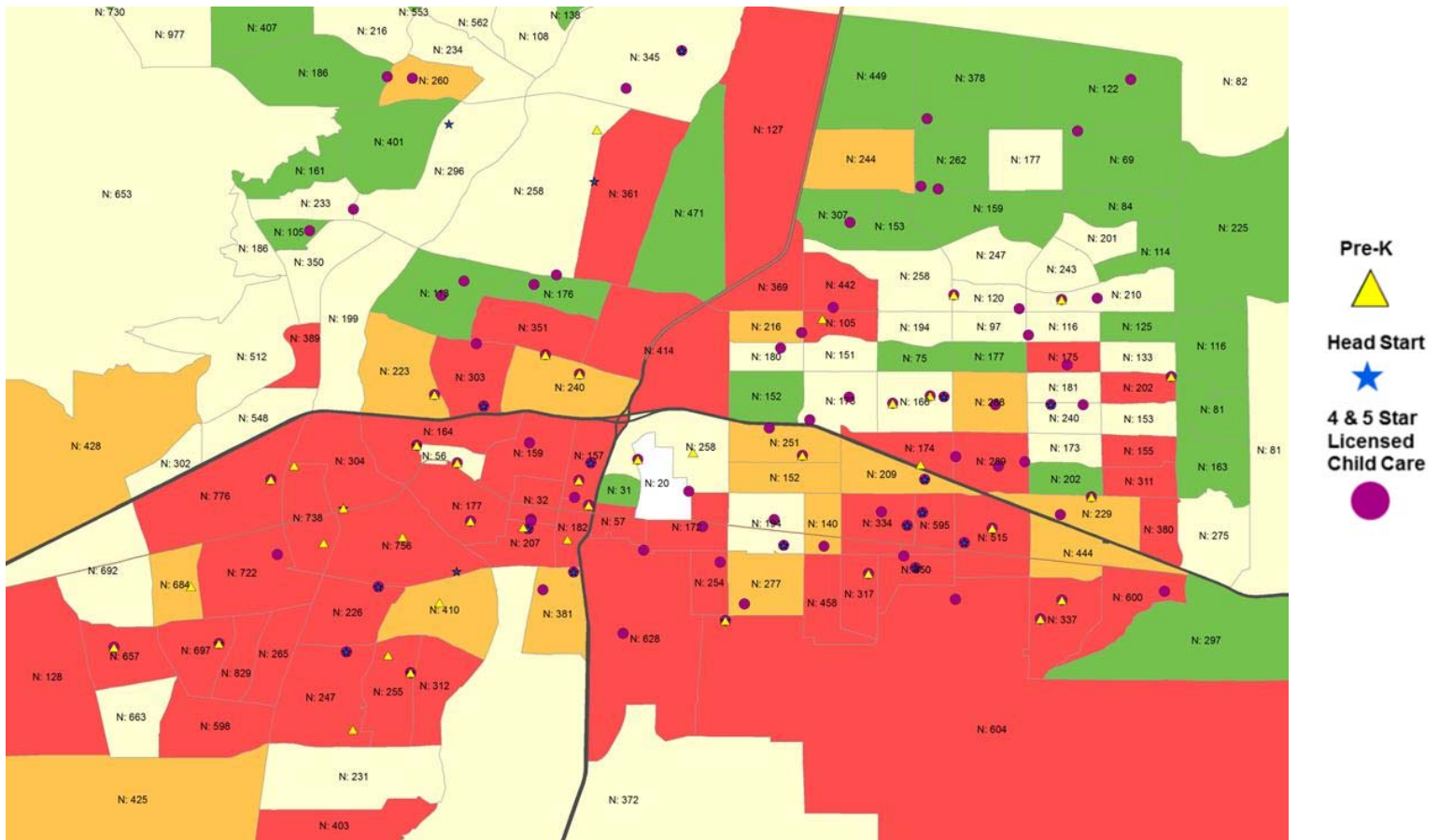
If We Know Where The Early Childhood Program Are...

Then, We Can Do A Better Job Of Identifying The Gaps And Prioritizing The Resources



Head Start, Pre-Kindergarten and Child Care Sites in Albuquerque

(N= Number of Children Under 5 In That Census Tract)



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4 & 5 Star Licensed
Child Care Facilities

16  **UNM** CENTER for EDUCATION
POLICY RESEARCH

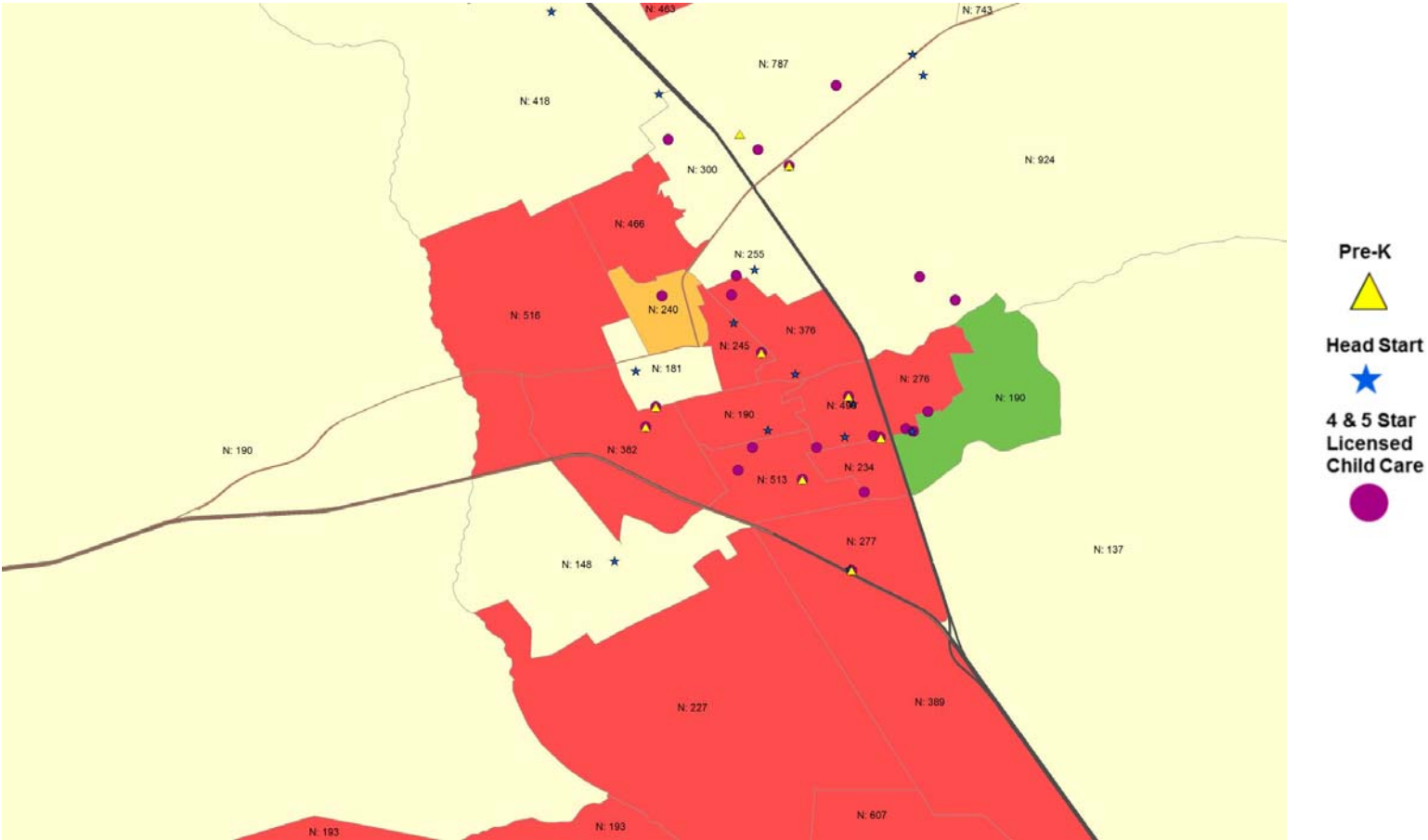
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Head Start, Pre-Kindergarten and Child Care Sites in Las Cruces

(N= Number of Children Under 5 In That Census Tract)

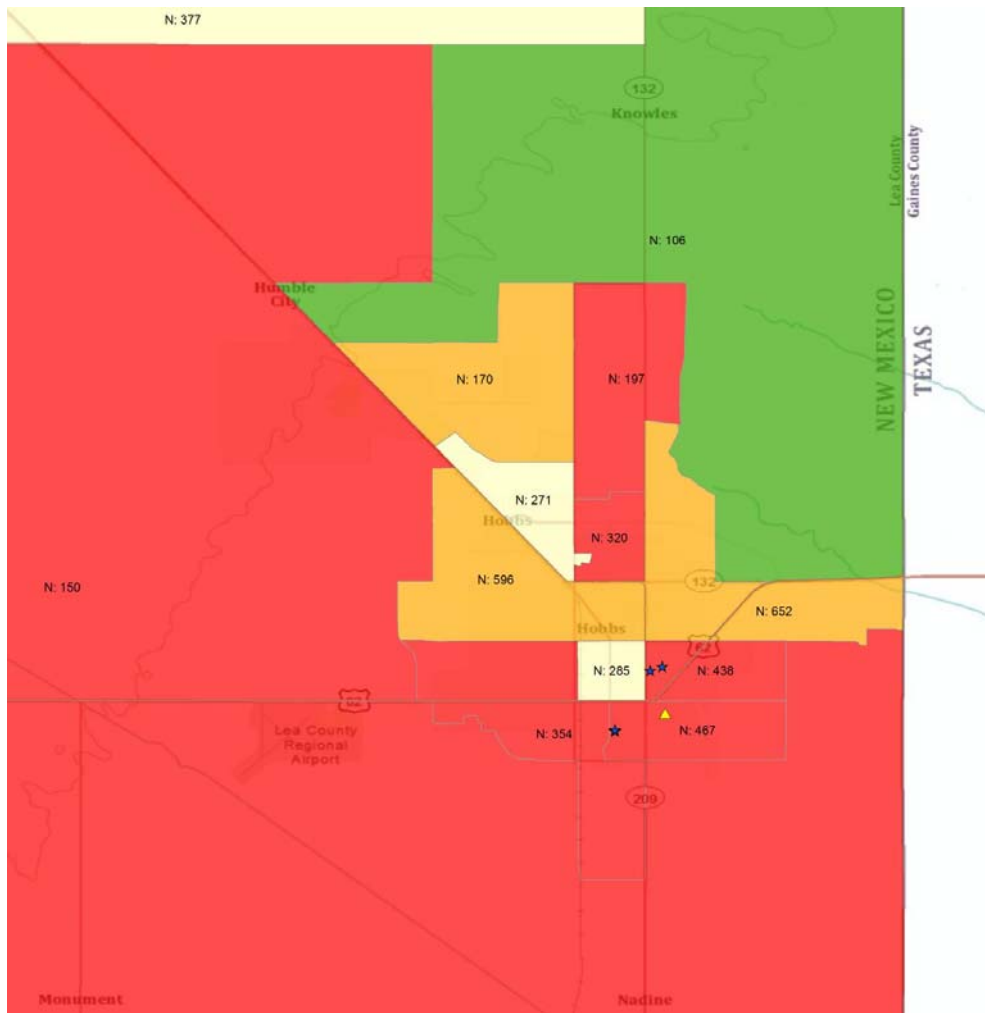


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Head Start, Pre-Kindergarten and Child Care Sites in Hobbs



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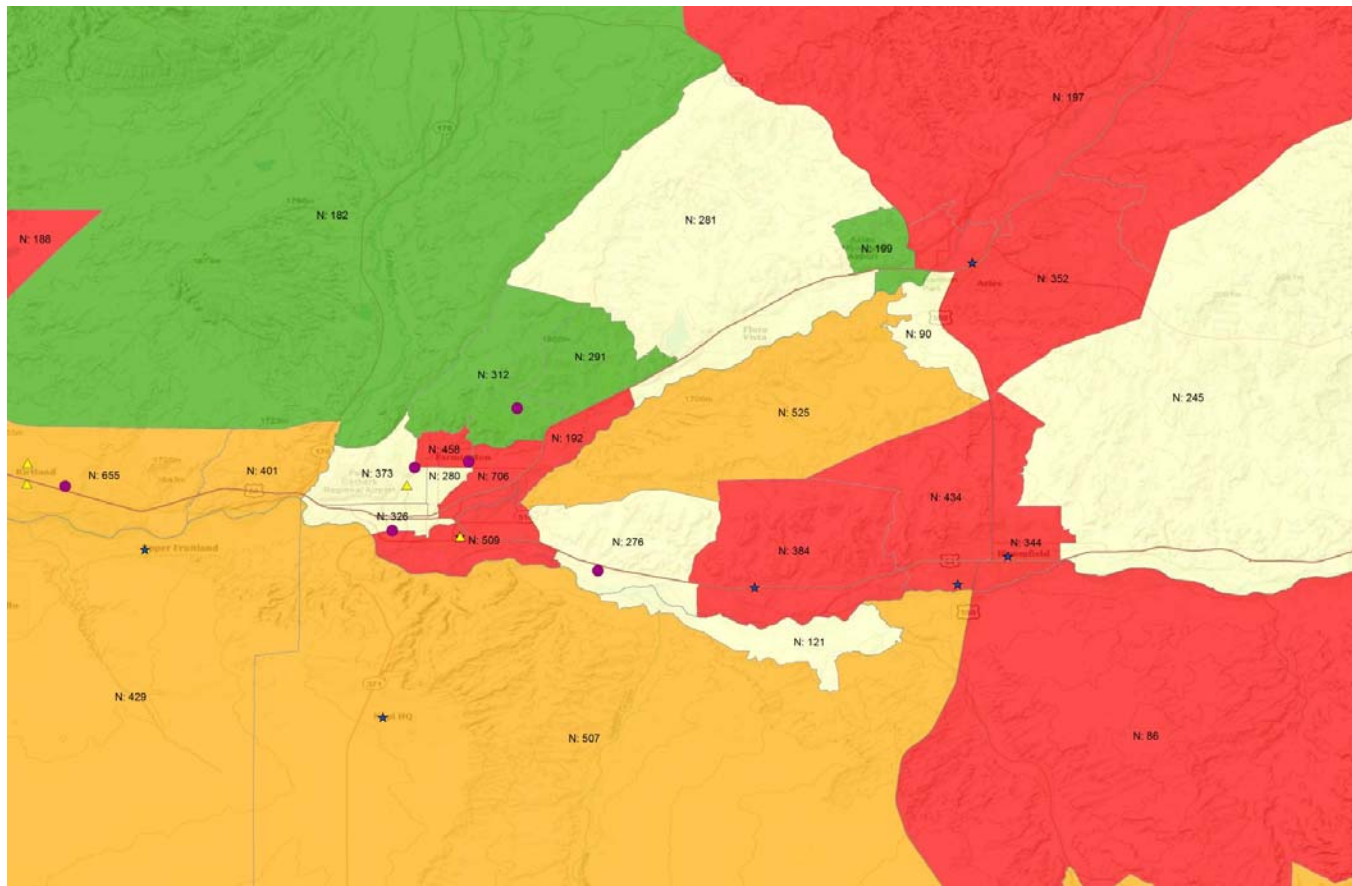
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- Head Start Centers
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Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2010, Five Year Estimates. National Average = 15.7%; State Average=22%. Children defined as under 18 years of age.

Head Start, Pre-Kindergarten and Child Care Sites in Farmington

(N= Number of Children Under 5 In That Census Tract)



Pre-K



Head Start



4 & 5 Star
Licensed
Child Care

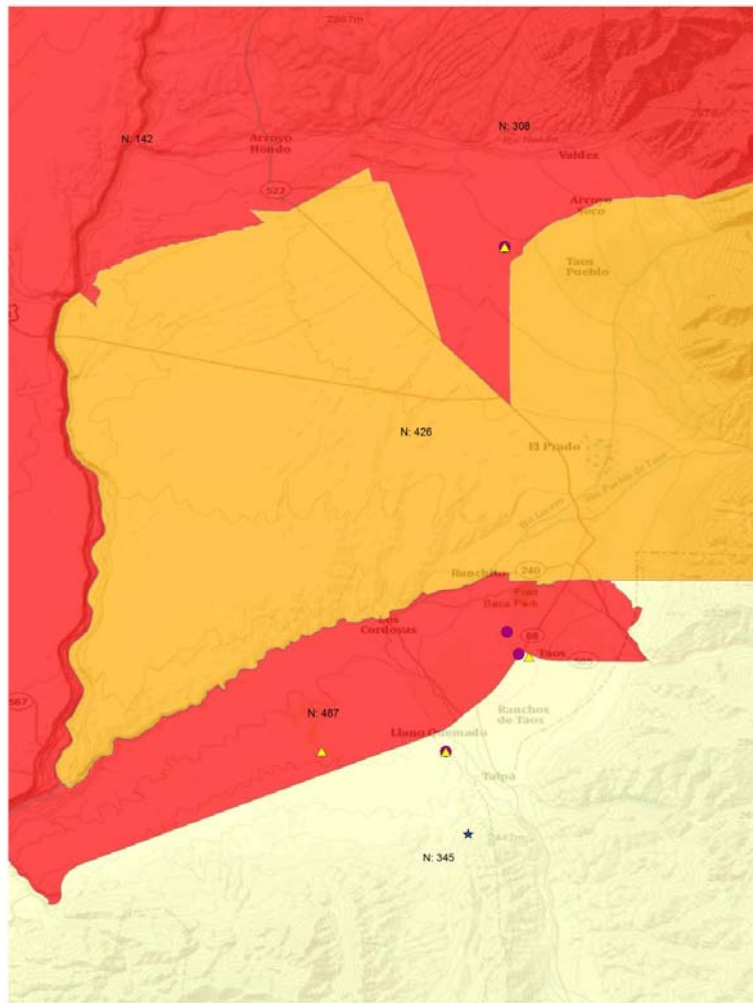


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Head Start, Pre-Kindergarten and Child Care Sites in Taos



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- ▲ Pre-Kindergarten Sites
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Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2010, Five Year Estimates. National Average = 15.7%; State Average=22%. Children defined as under 18 years of age.

New Mexico Needs Strong Data Systems To Make A Difference For Children

New Mexico has made important progress in building data systems but we have more to do.

The P-20 Data Warehouse is underway and we are working to establish an Early Childhood Data System as well.



In Summary

Thank you for all of the work that you have done to support young children and their families. We have done much, but there is more to do. We look forward to working with you during the 2012 Legislature and in the years to come.



Contact Information

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