



REGION IX HEAD START



COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2020-2025



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Executive Summary

Purpose for Assessment

The community assessment must be conducted every 5 years as required by the Head Start Performance Standards. The community assessment is a systematic examination of program services as well as a tool to identify key needs for the populations we serve to determine short-term and long-term program goals and objectives.

The 2019 community assessment provides the most recent data available regarding demographics, early learning programs, disabilities, health and nutrition, and social services for children and families in Lincoln County. The assessment provides our community resources and strengths, and identifies where there are gaps between available services and needs.

Key Findings

Causes & Conditions of Poverty

Our assessment research found that the causes of poverty in our service area are correlated with lack of education and job skills, lack of transportation and childcare, and the high cost of housing. Low wage jobs and jobs that do not offer benefits also contribute to poverty in our area. These issues, which affect almost all low-income people, are more prevalent among people of color and those who do not speak English.¹ Among this population, problems of discrimination and barriers related to language and citizenship, especially related to employment increase the problems of poverty.

Rates of poverty have increased since 2000. The rates of poverty are highest among children, specifically ages 5-17, female headed households, and people of color.² New Mexico public and private agencies continue to address poverty in our communities, and local groups have specifically addressed poverty among youth in Lincoln County.

Needs of Community Assessed

Among low-income households, significant needs include access to affordable housing due to the high fair market rent in our area. Low-income families need after school care for their children, youth activities, and quality childcare in order to continue their education or work full-time. Childcare is expensive in our community, and the requirements to receive childcare subsidies is very stringent. Transportation also arose as an area of need for low-income persons including bus transportation for children in Head Start.

There are limited resources for medical and dental services in our area. Specifically doctors and dentists who accept medicaid or don't have long waitlists for patients. The community assessment found that most families receive care out of the service area, or don't receive it in a timely manner. Immunizations can be limited in our service area as well.

¹ New Mexico Kids Count Data Book 2018. www.nmvoices.org

² U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013-2017. www.factfinder.census.gov

Healthcare needs among low-income families are also significant in this community. Many individuals indicated that there are not enough medical care options in the community such as specialists, family practitioners, and pediatricians. The cost of healthcare and the requirements to qualify for medicaid are also challenges for people who are struggling to make ends meet.

The major concern with our community among all individuals surveyed was the amount of drug and alcohol abuse in our community, specifically among youth and teens. The issue has grown concern over the last 5 years. There is a need for drug and alcohol prevention, rehab, programs to help at risk youth, and law enforcement to stop the drugs from entering our community.

Recommendations

The information in this assessment demonstrates that Region IX and Region IX Head Start/EHS have a unique opportunity to enhance or increase programs and initiatives to meet the needs of our community. Region IX and Head Start will continue to offer their high quality services across the county and beyond, but will keep an eye on opportunities to increase those services to address the needs and concerns of the community. Region IX Head Start will work to heighten its efforts around family case management and PFCE outcomes assessments to set attainable goals for families around housing, adult education, and job skills.

Region IX Head Start and Early Head Start will consider increasing services to children and families in the community by offering more slots for children birth to five at the sites with the highest need once space is available to expand services. Head Start and EHS will collaborate with Region IX Education Cooperative to broaden services, and continue developing partnerships in order to provide the highest level of service possible in our community.

High quality preschool and other early childhood services are needed for at-risk children facing poverty. Affordable childcare repeatedly emerged in our research as a community need, particularly for supporting families with employment and educational needs. The agency should take advantage of opportunities for program expansion, including extending the duration of services throughout the year, and implementing other program options that would support working families' goals for self-sufficiency.

Sources of Data

- New Mexico Kids Count Data Book 2018
Accessed via www.nmvoices.org
- MIT Living Wage Calculator
Accessed via livingwage.mit.edu
- CYFD 360 Yearly Report
Accessed via www.cyfd.org
- Presbyterian Healthcare Services - Community Health Needs Assessment 2016-2019
Accessed via www.phs.org
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Accessed via www.cdc.gov
- U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013-2017
Accessed via www.factfinder.census.gov
- U.S Census Bureau, Quick Facts Lincoln County, NM 2018
Accessed via www.census.gov
- U.S Census Bureau, 2010 Census Summary
Accessed via www.factfinder.census.gov
- Human Services Department Monthly Statistical Report (January 2018 & January 2019)
Accessed via www.hsd.state.nm.us
- New Mexico Department of Health - The State of Health in New Mexico 2018
Accessed via www.nmhealth.org
- Cornell University Disability Status Report 2017 - New Mexico
Accessed via www.disabilitystatistics.org
- New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions
Accessed via www.jobs.nm.state.us

Methodology

The community assessment was a collaborative effort between staff, teachers, community members, and parents. The Community Assessment Matrix was provided by the National Center on Program Management and Fiscal Operations. Each member of the leadership team was assigned a section of the matrix, and they were to provide concrete and usable data for each section. This assessment was created through the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data, including the Census Bureau and feedback of our parents, employees and community members.

The data was collected by accessing online information, calling/emailing agencies and individuals in various fields that could point us in the right direction, we used program data such as Child Plus reports, our Annual Report, and our self-assessment. The data was analyzed by picking out the information needed for the community assessment and correlating it with other data. The majority of the demographics data was generated from the Census Bureau, and the most recent 5 year survey was completed in 2017. The New Mexico Kids Count Data Book 2018 was also used throughout the assessment because they had compiled the most data that was current for Lincoln County and New Mexico.

This community assessment report represents our agency's effort to understand the unique character of the community we serve, particularly in regards to the prevalence of poverty and the needs of low-income families and individuals. Assessing our community enables us to better fulfill our mission of providing quality comprehensive services to children and families of our community.

Overview of Region IX and Head Start

Region IX Education Cooperative

Region IX Education Cooperative provides direct services to children and families, and support services to member districts in south central New Mexico. The service area includes Capitan, Corona, Hondo, Tularosa, Ruidoso, Carrizozo, and Cloudcroft school districts and communities.

Region IX's programs include: Developmental Services, Home Visiting, Early Head Start, Head Start, Educational Services, School Based Health Services, Special Projects, and CYFD Scholarship and Supplemental Pay Programs.

Region IX is the largest educational cooperative in the state of NM. Region IX began providing services in 1983 and continues to provide quality services locally, and is continually expanding other services across the state of New Mexico³.

Region IX's Vision Statement

Region 9 - Your innovative Regional Education Cooperative providing exceptional services to children, families, and communities across New Mexico.

Region IX Head Start & Early Head Start

Region IX Head Start began serving children & families in Lincoln County, NM in 1993. The program has grown over the years and currently serves 115 children and families across Lincoln County including Ruidoso, Hondo, and Capitan.

Region IX Early Head Start serves 44 children and families in Lincoln County with one center in Ruidoso, NM. In 2018 Early Head Start became an expansion grant after the dissolution of the Child Care Partnership, and has successfully operated as a stand alone EHS for over a year.

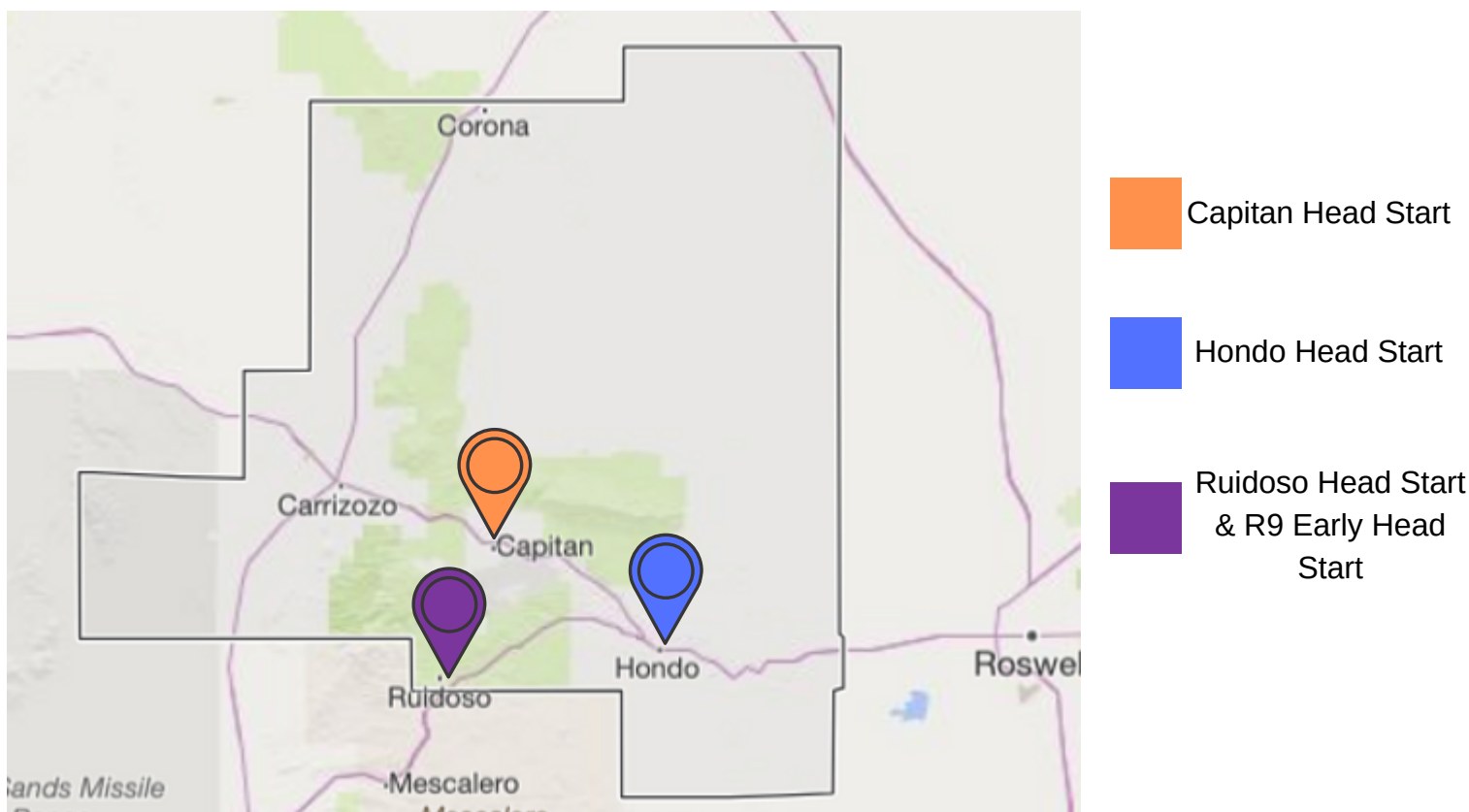


Pictured: Head Start children visiting Smokey Bear and his garden.

Head Start Location Service Areas

Zip Code	Head Start Site	4 days/ week	5 days/ week	HS Capacity	EHS Capacity	Number of Classrooms	Qualifying children in zip code
88345	Ruidoso Head Start		X	86	0	5	96
88345	Region IX Early Head Start		X	0	44	6	59
88316	Capitan Head Start	X		17	0	1	20
88336	Hondo Head Start	X		12	0	1	12
Totals		2	2	115	44	13	187

The total qualifying children in each zip code are children who are income eligible or who qualify in the 101-130% income category. There are 16 over income families who have applied and have been accepted or are on the wait list for Head Start or EHS.⁴



Region IX Head Start and Early Head Start can service any family living within Lincoln County. Some families live between Capitan and Carrizozo, and they enroll their child in the Capitan classroom. Our program is in high demand by Mescalero families because sometimes they prefer to send their children to school in Ruidoso versus Mescalero. We can not accept any children from Mescalero because it is located in Otero County, not Lincoln County. And Mescalero has a Head Start program on tribal land. There is one area within Lincoln County, Carrizozo, which would benefit from having a Head Start/EHS program in their area.

Service Area Demographics

Service area (Lincoln County) demographics are as follows. Demographic information is also included for the entire state of New Mexico for comparison purposes. All data in this section was sourced from the American Community Survey and 2010 Census, the 2018 New Mexico Kids Data Book, and the Community Health Needs Assessment from Presbyterian Health Services.

Population

Population change within the report area from 2010-2017 is shown below. During the 7 year period, total population estimates for the service area decreased by 5.4%, decreasing from 20,497 persons in 2010 to 19,395 persons in 2017.⁵ Hondo has a very small population so it is likely they were not included on the ACS 2013-2017 or the data is not available yet.

Service Area	Total Population, 2013-2017 ACS	Total Population, 2010 Census	Total Change in Population	% Change in Population
Lincoln County	19,395	20,497	- 1,102	-5.4%
Ruidoso	10,347	10,844	- 497	-4.6%
Hondo	X	998	- 83 (from 2007 pop. 1,081)	-7.6%
Capitan	1,321	1,489	-168	-11.3%
Carrizozo**	878	996	-118	-11.8%
New Mexico	2,084,828	2,059,179	25,649	1.2%

**Carrizozo is not currently being served by Head Start or EHS but is within Lincoln County, and services are provided by Region IX to this area.

Age & Gender

Population by gender within the report area is shown below. According to ACS 2013-2017 5 year population estimates for the service area Lincoln County, the age group (male & female) zero to 5 years old comprised 4.8% of the service area, while the 20 to 64 male and female population represented 32.7%.

Service Area	0 to 5 Male	0 to 5 Female	5 to 19 Male	5 to 19 Female	20 to 64 Male	20 to 64 Female	65+ Male	65+ Female
Lincoln County	504	426	1,501	1,440	4,893	5,497	2,501	2,735
Ruidoso	359	140	700	908	2,734	2,986	1,135	1,385
Hondo	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Capitan	0	41	221	178	292	383	112	195
Carrizozo**	12	20	65	72	253	290	36	130
New Mexico	66,963	64,099	215,773	206,939	599,494	602,878	149,856	178,826



Pictured: Hondo Head Start children painting a box for their drive in movie.

Race

Population by race and ethnicity within the report area is shown below. According to ACS 2013-2017, the Hispanic population makes up more than half of New Mexico's population, and 31% of Lincoln County's population. Persons identifying themselves as American Indian or Native American made up 3% of Lincoln County population, and 8% of New Mexico population. 76% of New Mexico kids are children of color which makes New Mexico have a "minority-majority" child population, where the majority of the child population is not white.⁶

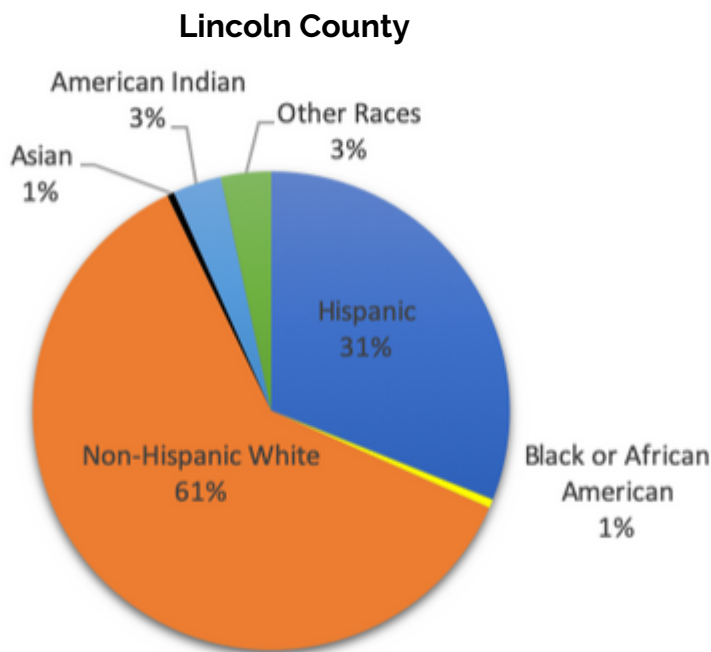


Chart 1. American Community Survey 2013-2017 - Census Bureau

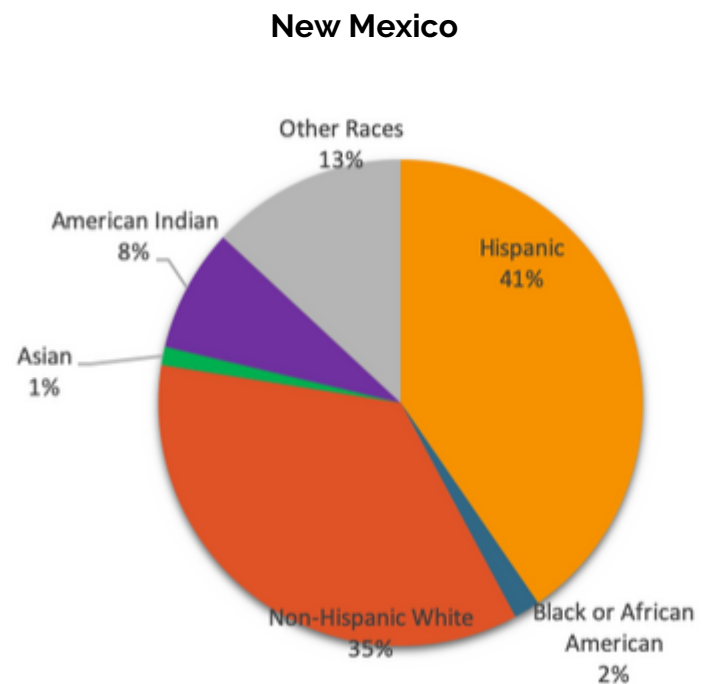


Chart 2. American Community Survey 2013-2017 - Census Bureau

Home Languages

The majority of homes in the service area speak English as the primary home language. For the Region IX Head Start population, primary home languages are English (75.1%) and Spanish (21.4%).⁷ Although New Mexico has a higher population of English speakers, Spanish is the second primary language of New Mexico and Lincoln County.

Home Languages	New Mexico	Lincoln County
English	65%	77.8%
Spanish	27.7%	20.7%
Other Indo-European Languages	1.2%	0.6%
Asian & Pacific Island Languages	1%	0.7%
Other Languages (including Apache)	5.2%	0.1%

⁶ New Mexico Kids Count Data Book 2018. www.nmvoices.org

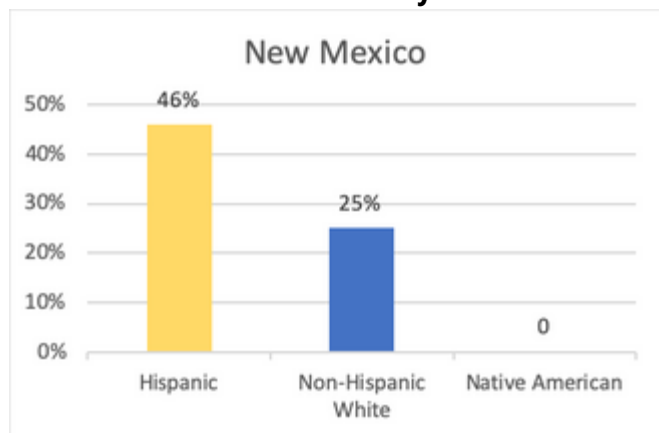
⁷ Region IX Head Start PIR 2018-2019

Types of Families

According to the *New Mexico Kids Count Data Book 2018*, the majority of the families in the service area are married-couple families with the population being 11%. There are more single-female families than single-male families in Lincoln County.

Service Area	Total Households	Married-Couple Families	Single-Male Householder Families	Single-Female Householder Families
New Mexico	762,551	16%	3%	8%
Lincoln County	8,016	11%	1%	3%

Children in Single Parent Families by Race and Ethnicity



Forty-five percent of New Mexico children live with a parent or parents who are unmarried. New Mexico's rate is much higher than the national average of 34 percent.⁸

Chart 3. New Mexico Kids Count Data Book 2018

Employment

The civilian employed population 16 years and over in Lincoln County totals 7,057 persons. The top 5 occupation categories in Lincoln County are (1) Arts, entertainment, recreation, and accommodation to food service, (2) Educational services, and health care and social assistance, (3) Retail trade, (4) Construction, (5) Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services. Lincoln County has a significant increase in population during summer months due to tourist attractions. This allows seasonal hospitality jobs to surface. The scientific occupations may include forest service personnel as there is a large population of wildland firefighters and personnel in Lincoln County.

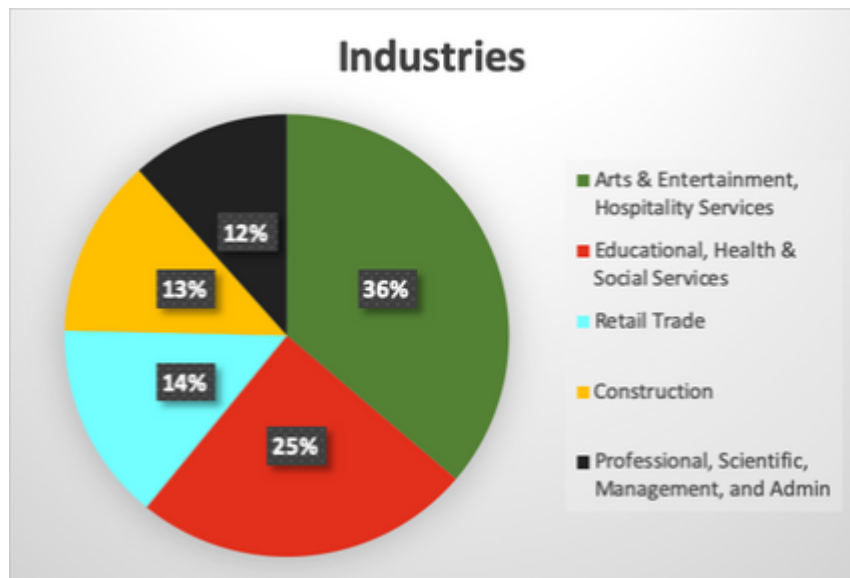


Chart 4. Quick Facts Lincoln County, NM - Census Bureau

Employment Continued

The majority of workers in Lincoln County are paid through private wages or salary comprised of 63%. The median family income for Lincoln County is \$56,518.⁹ Depending on the family size approximately 66% of the families income would be below or at the current HHS Poverty Guidelines.

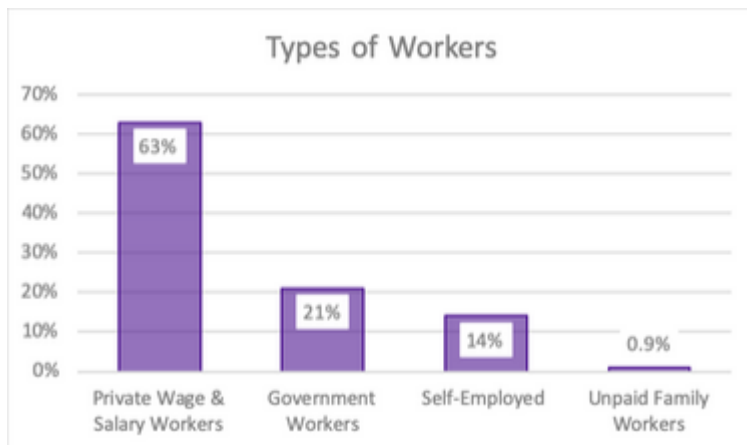


Chart 5. U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013-2017

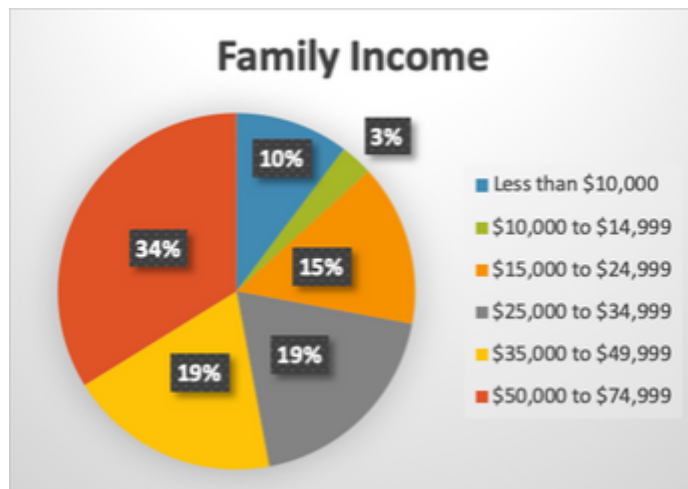


Chart 6. U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013-2017

Special Service Populations

Based on information gathered from county and state data as well as partners serving children birth to five, we estimated the following numbers for special service populations within our service area.

Service Area	Birth to 3 Children Receiving Disability Services	Preschool Children Receiving Disability Services	Children in Foster Care	Preschool Children Experiencing Homelessness	Expectant Mothers
Lincoln County	53	25	15	13	177

Poverty Statistics

Service area demographics are as follows. Demographic information is also included for the entire state of New Mexico for comparison purposes.

Poverty Guidelines

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released updates of the poverty guidelines in January 2019. The federal poverty guidelines are used as an eligibility criterion. The poverty guidelines are derived from the Census Bureau's current official poverty threshold, and the figures reflect annual income.

Persons in Family/Household	100% of Poverty	130% of Poverty
1	\$12,490	\$16,237
2	\$16,910	\$21,983
3	\$21,330	\$27,729
4	\$25,750	\$33,475
5	\$30,170	\$39,221
6	\$34,590	\$44,967
7	\$39,010	\$50,713
8	\$43,430	\$56,459

Note: For families/households with more than eight people, add \$4,420 for each additional person.

Poverty Rate 5-year Estimates (ACS)

The following report section shows population estimates for all persons in poverty for the report area. According to the American Community Survey 5 year estimates, an average of 15.4% of all persons lived in a state of poverty during the 2013-2017 period. "One in five New Mexicans live at or below the federal poverty level. New Mexico is tied with Louisiana for the next-to-worst poverty rate in the nation".¹⁰

Service Area	All Ages # of Persons	All Ages Poverty Rate	Age 0-17 # of Persons	Age 0-17 Poverty Rate	Under 5 # of Persons	Under 5 Poverty Rate
Lincoln County	2,987	15.4%	627	17.5%	82	8.9%
New Mexico	420,293	20.6%	142,793	29.1%	42,236	32.6%
United States	45,650,345	14.6%	14,710,485	0.3%	4,390,252	22.5%

ACS estimates show that there were 4,999 households, or 10.4% of all households living in poverty in the services area.

Poverty Rate Change

Poverty rate change in the report area from 2000 to 2017 is shown below. According to the U.S Census, the poverty rate for the service area increase by 0.5%, compared to a national increase of 2.2%.

Service Area	Persons in Poverty 2000	Poverty Rate 2000	Persons in Poverty 2017	Poverty Rate 2017	% Change 2000-2017
Lincoln County	2,855	14.9%	2,987	15.4%	0.5%
New Mexico	328,933	18.4%	420,293	20.6%	2.2%
United States	33,899,812	12.4%	45,650,345	14.6%	2.2%

Population in Poverty by Gender

Service Area	Total Male	Total Female	% Male	% Female
Lincoln County	1,196	1,791	12.9%	17.8%
New Mexico	192,619	227,674	19.2%	21.9%
United States	20,408,626	25,241,718	13.3%	15.8%

The rates of poverty among females is higher than males in the service area, across New Mexico, and nationally.

Population in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone

Service Area	Total Hispanic/Latino	Total Not Hispanic/Latino	% Hispanic/Latino	% Not Hispanic/Latino
Lincoln County	1,243	1,620	20.2%	13.2%
New Mexico	244,409	96,793	24.8%	12.4%
United States	12,269,452	19,820,720	22.2%	10.3%

The rates of poverty among most populations of color - such as Hispanics, Native Americans, and African Americans - are considerably higher than poverty rates for non-Hispanic Whites in Lincoln County, New Mexico, and Nationally.



Total Population in Poverty by Race

Service Area	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Native Hawaiian	Some Other Race	Mixed Race
Lincoln County	15.2%	0%	27.5%	0%	0%	26.4%	8.8%
New Mexico	18%	24.2%	33.6%	9.9%	21.2%	28.5%	20.6%

American Indian and "Some Other Race" populations are higher than the white population in the service area and in New Mexico.

Families in Poverty

The number of families in poverty by type are shown below. According to ACS 2013-2017 5 year estimates for the report area, there were 4,999 families living in poverty. There are more female householder families in poverty at 10%, and only 5% of the families living in poverty have a male householder. The majority of the families in poverty are married couples in the service area.

Service Area	Total Families	Total # of Families in Poverty	Families in Poverty Married Couples	Families in Poverty Male Householder	Families in Poverty Female Householder
Lincoln County	5,859	4,999	4,285	236	478
New Mexico	518,698	491,535	341,279	43,657	106,599

Children in Poverty

The number of children 0-5 years old in poverty are shown below. The percentage of children 0-4 living in Lincoln County in poverty is 8.9% compared to New Mexico's population is 32.6%. According to New Mexico Kids Count Book 2018, Lincoln County ranks 18th in the state for children 0-17 in poverty with 33% of the children population in poverty. There is a larger population of children 5-17 in poverty in Lincoln County compared to the 0-5 age group.

Service Area	Ages 0-5 Total Population	Ages 0-5 in Poverty	Ages 0-5 Poverty Rate
Lincoln County	918	82	8.9%
New Mexico	129,370	42,236	32.6%

Service Area	Ages 5-17 Total Population	Ages 5-17 in Poverty	Ages 5-17 Poverty Rate
Lincoln County	2,666	545	20.4%
New Mexico	361,831	100,557	27.8%

Service Area	Ages 0-17 Total Population	Ages 0-17 in Poverty	Ages 0-17 Poverty Rate
Lincoln County	3,584	627	17.5%
New Mexico	491,201	142,793	29.1%



Summary of Poverty Trends

Poverty affects individuals from all demographic groups in New Mexico. In terms of age, poverty is most prevalent among children, with young children ages 0-5 experiencing the highest rates of poverty in New Mexico. Poverty is also high among children ages 5-17. Lincoln County ranks in the mid to low range in the state for children ages 0-17 compared to other counties.¹¹

Significant economic imbalance between whites and those of other races and ethnic backgrounds. Whites experience poverty at lower rates than any other racial or ethnic category in New Mexico, including American Indian and those who are of Hispanic/Latino Origin. According to NM Kids Count Data Book 2018, rates of children in poverty in New Mexico increased from 2010 to 2016 among Native American and Hispanic children. Whites experience poverty at lower rates than other racial or ethnic category including those who identify as "other race" and those who are of Hispanic/Latino origin. This fact is especially troubling given Lincoln County's racial demographics, where whites comprise a significant majority of Lincoln County's population.

Poverty in New Mexico affects women and families headed by women. Among families, female headed households and married couples experience the highest rates of poverty; male headed households experience poverty at much lower rates than any other family type. This is also true of Lincoln County where poverty affects married couples more than single households.

New Mexico has approximately 22.4% of children living in high poverty areas which is much higher than the national average of 12.8%. Lincoln County has 0% of children living in high poverty areas.¹²

¹¹ U.S Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013-2017. www.factfinder.census.gov

¹² New Mexico Voices for children. (2018). *New Mexico Kids Count Data Book*. New Mexico: Eric Griego, Firestik Studio, and Ms. Print

Identified Needs

Region IX Head Start recognizes eight areas of need as defined by assessment criterion required by the Office of Head Start. These categories include: Education, Health, Social Services, Nutrition, Housing, Child Care, Transportation, and Employment. What follows is an in-depth analysis of community needs and trends that affect our children and families in our service area.

Education

We recognize that education is a core element for children and families to move out of poverty, and to improve their self-sufficiency. Educational attainment is highly correlated with economic outcomes. Those who receive high quality education from the start are more likely to achieve future success in economic well-being.



Pictured: Early Head Start children reading a book with their teachers.

Early Childhood Education

Region IX operates two early childhood education services: Head Start and Early Head Start. A large majority of families stated that Head Start has helped prepare their children for school, and reach important milestones (74%). The majority of the families stated they had the opportunity to provide input on their child's goals and progress, and they were regularly informed of that progress through home visits and parent teacher conferences.

Early Childhood Education Facts:

New Mexico ranks 50th in the nation for child well-being by the Annie E. Casey Foundation 2018 Kids Count State Rankings system. On measures of education alone, New Mexico is ranked 50th in education.

- 56% of New Mexico children (3-4 years old) do not attend preschool.
- 69% of Lincoln County children (3-4 years old) do not attend preschool.
- Approximately 15% of Lincoln County children under five are in family-based child care.
- 9.5% of babies born in New Mexico have low birthweights.
- 9.3% of babies born in Lincoln County have low birthweights.
- 5.7% of children in New Mexico do not have health insurance.
- 8.7% of children in Lincoln County do not have health insurance.
- 38% of all New Mexico children live in single-parent households.
- 24% of Lincoln County children live in single-parent households.

Sources for Facts Above:

U.S Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013-2017. www.factfinder.census.gov

New Mexico Voices for children. (2018). *New Mexico Kids Count Data Book*. New Mexico: Eric Griego, Firestik Studio, and Ms. Print

Demographics of Head Start Eligible Children & Families

Zip Code	Head Start Site	White	Black or African American	American Indian	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Other	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino
88345	Ruidoso & EHS	79.5%	0.7%	4.1%	0.4%	0.2%	12.9%	2.3%	38.6%	61.4%
88336	Hondo	37.4%	X	0.1%	X	0.1%	X	0.5%	61.9%	38.1%
88316	Capitan	84.4%	0.5%	0.9%	0.1%	0%	10.8%	3.4%	24.8%	75.2%

The preceding chart shows estimated population by race and ethnicity of all persons by zip code for our Head Start service area (ACS 2013-2017). The total population of children ages 0-5 in Lincoln County is 918 (ACS 2013-2017).

Demographics of Enrolled Head Start Children & Families

Head Start Site	White	Black or African American	American Indian	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Other	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino
Ruidoso	83%	0%	10%	0.2%	0%	0.1%	0.3%	50.5%	49.5%
EHS	74.4%	0.2%	0.6%	0%	0%	0.2%	11.6%	69.7%	30.3%
Hondo	88.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	11.1%	100%	0%
Capitan	87.5%	0.6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.6%	25%	75%

Overall, the majority of eligible and enrolled Head Start children & families are white in race. There is a larger Hispanic population in our service area than non-hispanic except for in Capitan the majority of the enrolled children and families are non-hispanic or latino.

Other Child Development & Childcare Programs

Childcare Programs	Programs/Services Offered
Ruidoso School District	The Ruidoso Municipal School District offers NM Pre-K to 4-year-old children living in the Ruidoso School boundaries. They serve 60 children divided into 4 classrooms. Each class has 15 students with two teachers and is taught by a teacher licensed in early childhood education. The program is free and runs 5 days a week. They use the NM Pre-K research-based curriculum and assessment system. Acceptance into the program is determined on a first-come first-served basis. RMSD also offers a special education preschool program for children 5 days a week with a morning or afternoon session. The 3Y DD classroom is taught by a licensed special education teacher and an aide. They accept 3-year-old children, and they also partner with Head Start to provide inclusion for the SPED children. RMSD provides space for 5 Head Start classrooms (86 children) in the Sierra Vista Primary school.
Hondo Valley Public Schools	The Hondo Valley Public Schools partners with Head Start to provide one classroom for Head Start children, and any 3Y/4Y DD children who do not qualify for Head Start.
Capitan School District	The Capitan School District partners with Head Start to provide one classroom for Head Start children, and any 3Y/4Y DD children who do not qualify for Head Start.
Mountain Montessori LLC	Mountain Montessori serves 3-6 year old children using the Montessori curriculum. Tuition is charged based on part time or full-time services. They do accept childcare subsidies.
NM Pre-K River Raccoons	River Raccoons is a NM Pre-K center who serves up to 12 students who are 4 years old before September 1 st . River Raccoons provides meals and is a free program. They use the NM Pre-K research-based curriculum and assessment system.
First Christian Church CDC	First Christian Church is a Child Development Center that serves infants to 12 years old. They are open full day, full year and are a licensed childcare center. Meals and snacks are not provided and they do not use a research-based curriculum. Tuition is based on full time or part time care, and they do accept state subsidies.

Imagination Station	Imagination Station is a licensed childcare center in the Ruidoso Methodist Church. They provide services to children 18 months – 5 years old. Meals and snacks are not provided and they do not have a research-based curriculum. They are full day, full year. Tuition is based on full time or part time services, and they accept state subsidies. They also have a sliding scale based on family size and income, and they provide scholarships to families who are in need.
Early Years Childhood Center	Early Years is a licensed child care facility located in Ruidoso Downs. They provide services from infants up to 5 years old. Meals and snacks are not provided by the center and they do not use a research-based curriculum. They are full day, full year and tuition is based on part time or full-time services. They accept state subsidies and have a sibling discount if you have more than one child who attends the center.
Rocking Horse	Rocking Horse is a NM Pre-K center in Carrizozo with approximately 15 students who are 4 years old. They also provide child care services to infants up to 3 years old. Rocking Horse is a licensed center that is full day, full year. There is tuition for children birth to three based on full time or part time. The NM Pre-K program is free for families.
Milk & Honey	Milk & Honey is a licensed family child care facility in Ruidoso Downs. They are open full day, full year and provide transportation to children who need after school care. Meals are provided and they serve children 3 – 12 years old.
Boys & Girls Club of Sierra Blanca	The Boys & Girls Club of Sierra Blanca serves about 360 kids per year in Ruidoso and Roswell. They serve children from Kindergarten to High School. Children are separated by age group to allow age appropriate activities. Boys and Girls Club provides five core areas of programming including arts & cooking skills, homework help & tutoring, sports/fitness/recreation, health & life skills, and character & leadership. They serve children meals throughout the year through the At Risk After School food program and Summer Food Service Program.

Chart 7 Sources: www.newmexicokids.org, Children, Youth, and Families Department, Facebook, www.bgcsierrablanca.org (Boys & Girls Club)

Lincoln County currently has a population of 918 children ages 0-5 years old. The total amount of daycare centers plus Early Head Start, Head Start, and NM Pre-K do not accommodate the population of children in our county. Although there are some in-home daycare centers, there is a huge need for child care in our area for children birth to three, children who are transitioning from daycare into a preschool program (3-4), and after school care for school aged children. The only after school care available is Boys and Girls Club of Sierra Blanca, and they have a waiting list with approximately 50 children on the list at all times. Families and community members completed a survey and 44.3% said that our community was in urgent need of quality child care and/or preschool programs.

Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs have the majority of the child care options as it is the largest "city" in Lincoln County. The population of children continues to grow in the Ruidoso area as well. Capitan has one in-home daycare that only accommodates approximately 10 children and they do not offer any after school care in that area. Capitan is in need of an Early Head Start program and another preschool program or Head Start classroom. Consistently, Head Start Capitan has the highest amount of over income applications out of our 115 children we serve so a NM Pre-K program would accommodate the over income families in the area.

Hondo and Corona do not have any childcare centers or in-home daycares. Relatives or family friends are the only resource for families with young children besides Head Start. Hondo would possibly benefit from one Early Head Start classroom of 8 children. Since Hondo is such a rural area we do not have exact numbers of infants - 3 year old children in the area, but from our program demographics we know that most families have more than one child.

Children with Disabilities

Cornell University's Disability Statistics center estimates that 1.0% of all children ages 0-4 in New Mexico have a disability (based on ACS 2017 data). That's roughly 1,311 young children across the state with reported disabilities. 0.4% reported a visual disability and 0.9% reported a hearing disability. The prevalence of reported disabilities significantly increases with age. 4.9% of all children ages 5-15 in New Mexico have a disability. Reported disabilities for the population of 0-4 include sensory disabilities only, whereas other age-group populations report on additional types of disabilities, including ambulatory, cognitive, and self-care.¹³

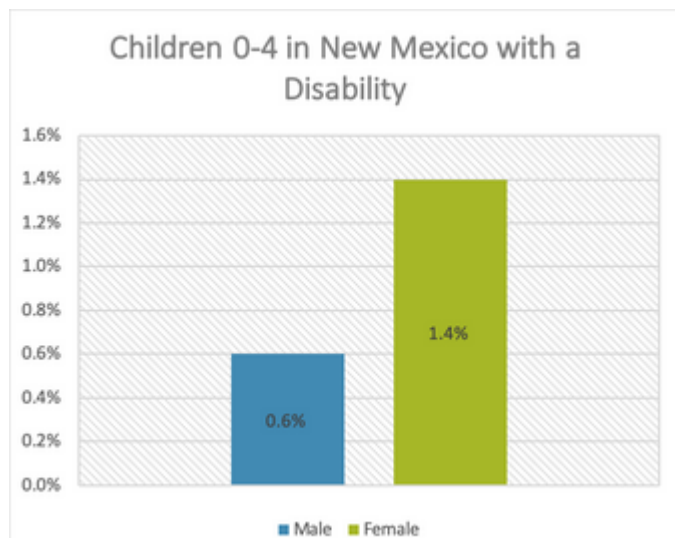


Chart 8. Cornell University Disability Status Report 2017 - NM

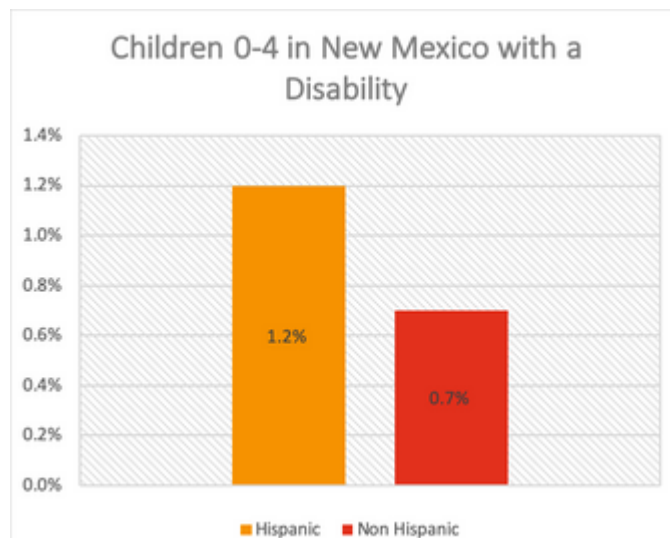


Chart 9. Cornell University Disability Status Report 2017 - NM

There are very few resources in Lincoln County for children with disabilities. Besides the LEA's in the county there is Region IX Developmental Services which is an intervention program for children birth to three. They accept referrals, evaluate and provide services if needed for children with disabilities using an Individualized Family Service Plan. Lincoln County Medical center provides some services to children with disabilities but it is unclear on the evaluation and service process.

Resources for Children & Families:

- We recognize many resources available within Region IX and among partners in our community that may be used to address the needs of Head Start eligible children and their families. We engage in partnerships designed to meet not only the health and education needs of children, but also the comprehensive needs of low-income families.
- Region IX Home Visiting is a program for prenatal through age 3 children and families. They service 32 families in Lincoln County using the Parents as Teachers Curriculum and Model. A group connection/playgroup is provided twice a month. They are a community partner and support families as they raise their children.
- Region IX School Based Health Center provides clinical, physical, and behavioral health care services to all children for free living in Lincoln County. They provide services to adults at a low cost, and even if they don't have insurance. We partner with them to assist us in our heights, weights, vision, and hearing screenings.
- Children's Medical Services is the go-to for families who have a child or youth with special health care needs. Care coordination is provided for children and their family. They provide access to pediatric specialty clinics and follow up care for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Resources for Children & Families:

- Aspen Creek Counseling is a behavioral health service for our children and families. We contract with Mary Ferrell, the mental health specialist, to conduct our classroom & individual observations at both Head Start and Early Head Start. She also accepts referrals for our families and staff as needed. She provides services to children and families in Lincoln County.
- The Nest is a domestic violence service provider that provides safe shelter and supportive services to women and their children who have been impacted by domestic violence.
- Women, Infants & Children Program (WIC) nutrition program that helps pregnant women, new mothers, and young children eat well, learn about nutrition, and stay healthy.
- Food 4 Kids Backpack Program provides food weekly to children and families. It is a free program and any child is eligible. Every Thursday the program fills backpacks with staples, canned goods, and other food for children to take home to their families. Each child in a family receives a backpack if they are school aged children. During summer break they offer weekend bags of food to children in Lincoln County with a small band of volunteers that deliver food directly to each child's door.

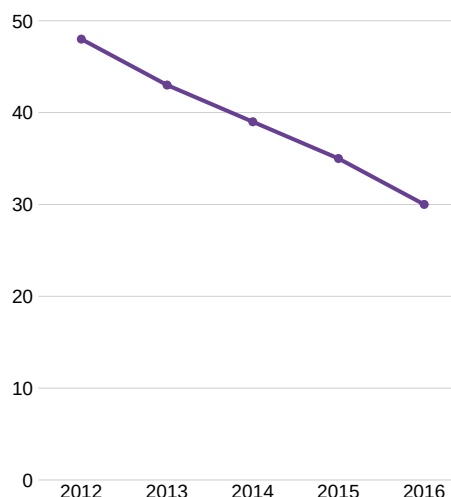
Youth Education

Youth Education Facts:

- 10% of New Mexico youth who are neither in school or working. Native American youth are the highest ranking at 13%.
- New Mexico ranks last in the nation in education.
- 23.9% of New Mexico's population is under 18 years of age.
- New Mexico's high school graduation rate is 71%. The lowest rates of graduation are found among students who are economically disadvantaged.
- Lincoln County's graduation rate is 81%.
- New Mexico's dropout rate is 4%, and Lincoln County's drop out rate is 0.7%.
- The lowest race to graduate high school is Native American at 61% compared to Asian at 85%.
- 75% of New Mexico fourth graders are not proficient in reading and 80% of New Mexico eighth graders are not proficient in math.



At-risk youth are adolescents who are less likely than their peers to successfully transition into adulthood and achieve economic self-sufficiency. Poverty and family instability are among the factors that may contribute to a youth being at-risk. Youth who are at-risk are more likely to experience teen pregnancy and are more likely to become incarcerated or experience poverty as adults.



Teen birth rates in New Mexico have declined in the last 4 years according to the chart to the left from 49 to 30 per 1,000 female teens. New Mexico ranks 44th in teen birth rates. Hispanic teen birth rates dropped from 85 to 32 from 2008 to 2016. Native American teen birth rates dropped from 72 to 34 per 1,000 teens.

Source for facts above: New Mexico Kids Count Data Book 2018

Chart 10. New Mexico Kids Count Data Book 2018

Resources for Youth:

- Boys and Girls Club of Sierra Blanca provides after school programming, leadership development, and education and career programs for youth.
- High Mountain Youth Project is an evening drop in center that offers a safe haven and positive environment with trained caring adults for after school homeless high school students who are in need of free resources such as meals, access to computers and school supplies, laundry facilities, showers, job readiness training, and college preparation.

Adult Education

There is one community college located within Lincoln County - Eastern New Mexico University Ruidoso Campus. And there are two major Universities in New Mexico: University of New Mexico in Albuquerque and New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. ENMU offers online courses through the Ruidoso, Roswell, and Portales branches.

ENMU Ruidoso offers the following Adult Education programs free of charge:

- High School Equivalency Diploma Preparation
- English as a Second Language (ESL), beginner through advanced
- Tutoring Services for ABE/ESL Students

Adult Education Facts:

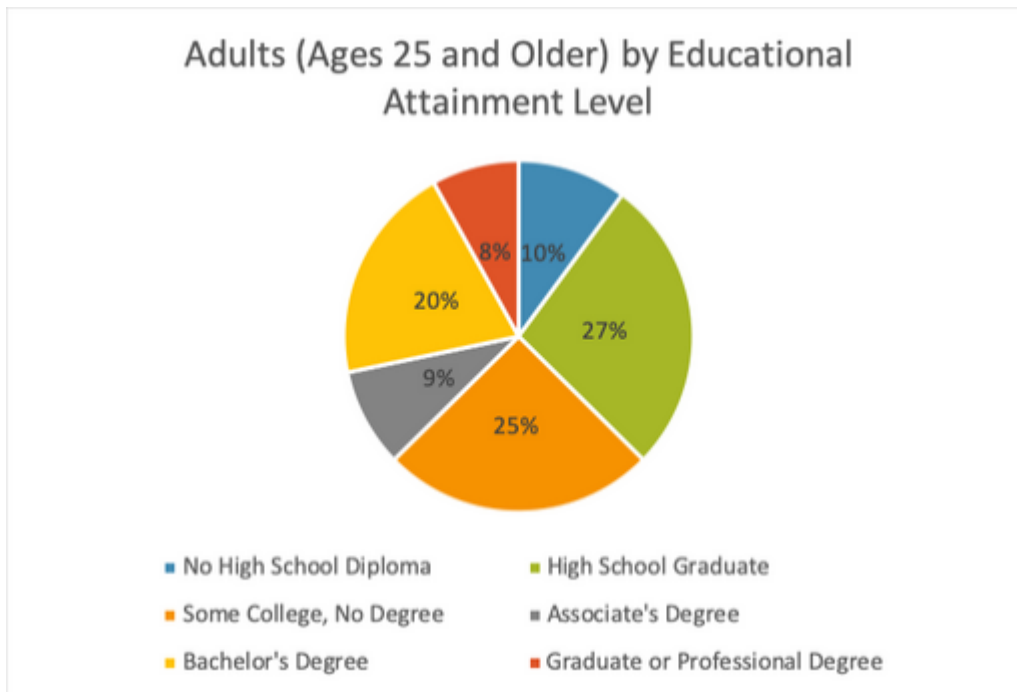


Chart 11. U.S Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013-2017

- Adults 65 years and older have the highest percentage out of all the age groups of persons having a Bachelor's degree or higher with 39% in Lincoln County.
- White non-Hispanic have a higher percentage of Bachelor's degrees or higher at 35.8% versus the Hispanic population at 15.2% for Lincoln County.
- Poverty in Lincoln County is highest among those who have less than a high school diploma (23%). The poverty for high school graduates is 20.6%. Poverty is lowest among college graduates with a bachelor's degree or higher, with a poverty rate of 7.3%.
- 19.4% of the enrolled families in Head Start and EHS during the 2018-2019 school year set an FPA goal of continuing education or obtaining a GED.

Employment & Income

The minimum wage, while sufficient to maintain above poverty-level income for a single person, is a poverty-level wage for two adults with three children. Currently, the federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. The minimum wage for New Mexico is \$7.50 per hour. A full-time worker (40 hours/week) making minimum wage earns \$15,600 per year. Federal poverty level for a household of one is \$12,490 per year, whereas the poverty threshold for a household of three is \$21,330 per year. A single parent with two children earning minimum wage must work at least 55.7 hours per week to earn enough to be considered above poverty.¹⁴



Chart 12. U.S Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013-2017

Employment Facts

- New Mexico's unemployment rate is 7.7%, which higher than the national rate of 3.9%.
- According to the *USA Today Network - New Mexico news*,¹⁵ Lincoln County's unemployment rate was 4.2% in September of 2018, and the workforce dropped to 8,680 in September 2018 from 9,199 in August 2018.
- The majority of employees in Lincoln County during summer months are seasonal employees because of the increase in leisure and hospitality attractions in the area.
- According to the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, New Mexico's over-the-year employment growth was 2.6% (not seasonally adjusted) which is above the national average of 1.5%.¹⁶

Service Area	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Lincoln County	7,442	7,057	385	5.2%
New Mexico	952,911	879,201	73,310	7.7%

The preceding chart are estimates from the Census Bureau ACS 2013-2017. The unemployment rate for Lincoln County in 2017 was 5.2% and in 2018 it dropped to 4.2%, a rate change of 1%.

14 MIT Living Wage Calculator. www.livingwage.mit.edu

15 Stallings, D. (2018, November). Unemployment Rate in Lincoln County Up Slightly from August to September. *Ruidoso News*, pp.1B

16 New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions. www.jobs.nm.state.us

New Mexico's largest five industries for employment, according to the Department of Workforce Solutions, include:

- 1) Office & Administrative Support
- 2) Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations
- 3) Sales and Related Occupations
- 4) Construction and Extraction
- 5) Education, Training, & Library Occupations

The largest industry for employment in Lincoln County is Arts, Entertainment, and Hospitality Services. The following chart lists the major employers in 2018 for the State of New Mexico and Lincoln County. The data is provided by the Department of Workforce Solutions.

Top Employers: State of New Mexico	Top Employers: Lincoln County
Sandia National Laboratories	Walmart Supercenter
Los Alamos National Laboratory	Lincoln County Medical Center
The University of New Mexico	Ruidoso Municipal School District
New Mexico State University	Region IX Education Cooperative
Presbyterian	The Village of Ruidoso

Community Resources for Employment:

- Lincoln County WIOA program is offered through Eastern New Mexico University to provide job search, education, and training activities for individuals seeking to gain or improve their employment prospects.
- NM Workforce Connection is an online portal to virtual job matching services and employment resources.
- Department of Workforce Solutions strives to improve employment and poverty rates through workforce development, enhanced services for employers, and ensuring fair labor practices and workforce protections for New Mexicans.

Trends Happening in Lincoln County that Will Affect Employment, Schools, and the Community:

- Wind Energy and High Voltage transmission construction projects will begin in Northern Lincoln County the 3rd Quarter of 2019 on Western Spirit Transmission Project and Mesa Canyon Wind Farm. The project will continue through 2021. The total workforce on both projects will be in the vicinity of 2900 construction workers who will live in the region for up to 2-3 years. The permanent workforce of approximately 100 turbine maintenance technicians will start work in 2020 and will live within Lincoln County.
- There are more new small business owners in the 25-40 age range (young families) purchasing small businesses in Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs. Several businesses are already expanding beyond Ruidoso into other counties and cities, but headquartered here.
- There will be at least three large scale highway projects starting in Western Lincoln County through 2022.

Source: Dr. Jim Miller - Past ENMU President and Current Region IX Employee via email.

Income Facts

- New Mexico's median household income is significantly lower than the median annual income for the United States.
- 33.3% of all jobs in New Mexico are considered low-wage.
- 80% of all New Mexico households have earned income.
- The median household income for Lincoln County is \$40,065.
- The median household income for New Mexico is \$46,718.
- There is a slight wage disparity among men and women in New Mexico. Women make approximately 18% less in wages than what men do.

Source: U.S Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013-2017

Median earnings by educational attainment and sex for Lincoln County, NM are listed below

	All	Men	Women
All Population Over 25 with Earnings	\$26,936	\$33,098	\$22,595
Less than High School Graduate	\$12,167	\$15,557	\$10,300
High School Graduate & Equivalency	\$24,408	\$25,855	\$23,246
Some College or Associate's Degree	\$30,661	\$37,964	\$25,511
Bachelor's Degree	\$40,189	\$50,625	\$40,490
Graduate or Professional Degree	\$42,326	\$86,101	\$51,660

The living wage for an individual with no children in Lincoln County is \$11.16 per hour. A living wage is an hourly wage that a person or family can earn through employment to meet the most basic costs of living without needing government assistance programs to supplement their income.

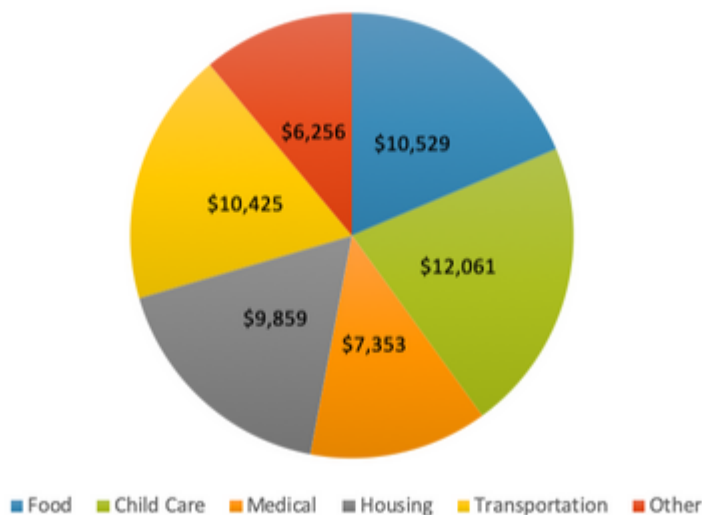
The living wage for various family types is calculated below for Lincoln County¹⁷

	1 Adult	1 Adult & 1 Child	1 Adult & 2 Children	2 Adults & 2 Children
Living Wage	\$11.16	\$24.94	\$29.67	\$16.26
Poverty Wage	\$5.84	\$7.91	\$9.99	\$6.03
Minimum Wage	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50

The chart below shows the typical annual expenses for a Lincoln County family with two adults and two children in which both adults work. The required annual income to meet these expenses before taxes is \$66,852.

Annual Expenses for a Family of Four in Lincoln County

Chart 13. MIT Living Wage Calculator



Health and Nutrition

Poverty is highly correlated with poor health outcomes, and nutrition is a major factor in an individual's overall health. Region IX Head Start and EHS make health and nutrition a top priority for our children and families. Each day we serve 477 nutritious meals to our Head Start and Early Head Start children. We provide these meals by working in partnership with the local school districts we reside in to provide breakfast, lunch, and snacks free of charge to all Head Start children. Family Advocates work to connect families and



Pictured: The Head Start Director preparing Thanksgiving baskets for needy families with donated goods.

individuals with health and nutrition resources, including health insurance, healthcare, SNAP, and WIC. The majority of Lincoln County is very rural so there are limited resources for quality healthcare for children and families. Many of our Head Start and Early Head Start families seek healthcare services outside of Lincoln County by going to Alamogordo or Roswell. There are more choices in those bigger cities for Family Practitioners, Specialists, Dentists, and especially Pediatricians. And those who except Medicaid as well.

Health Facts:

- 23.05% of Lincoln County residents ages 18-64 are uninsured. 8.7% of children ages 0-18 in Lincoln County are uninsured.
- 21.03% of New Mexico residents ages 18-64 are uninsured. 5.7% of children ages 0-18 in New Mexico are uninsured. The uninsured rates for children and adults are both higher than the national rate of 16.37% for adults, and 5% for children.
- 10.6% of low income children ages 0-18 are uninsured in Lincoln County.
- In 2013 there were only 11 primary care physicians for a population of 20,105. That is 1 primary care physician for every 1,827 people. There are 0 pediatricians or pediatric specialists in Lincoln County.
- 38.7% of New Mexico residents without a high school diploma have a fair or poor health status, and 43.8% of New Mexico residents who make less than \$15,000 annually have a fair or poor health status.
- In Lincoln County there is only 1 hospital, 1 Rural Health Clinic, 1 Behavioral Health Center, 1 Nursing Home, and 0 Federally Qualified Health Centers.
- 27.7% of Lincoln County residents receive Medicaid.
- 2,742 children younger than 21 receive Medicaid in Lincoln County. 171 of the children receiving Medicaid are Native American youth.
- 135 initial applications for Medicaid were processed through the Human Services Department in January 2019 for Lincoln County. 98 of the cases were approved and 34 were denied.

Sources for Facts Above:

U.S Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013-2017. www.factfinder.census.gov

New Mexico Kids Count Data Book 2018. www.nmvoices.org

Presbyterian Healthcare Services - Community Health Needs Assessment 2016-2019. www.phs.org

Human Services Department Monthly Statistical Report (January 2018 & January 2019). www.hsd.state.nm.us

New Mexico Department of Health - The State of Health in New Mexico 2018. www.nmhealth.org

Community Resources for Health:

- Region IX School Based Health Center provides clinical, physical, and behavioral health care services to all children for free living in Lincoln County. They provide services to adults at a low cost, and even if they don't have insurance. We partner with them to assist us in our heights, weights, vision, and hearing screenings.
- Life-Way Pregnancy Resource Center provides parenting classes, free pregnancy tests, and material assistance to families and individuals.
- Ben Archer Health Center (In Alamogordo) provides quality healthcare and dental services to children and families, and they also accept Medicaid.
- BCA Pediatric Group (In Roswell) has 12 Pediatricians on site. They make same day appointments and accept Medicaid.
- Hondo Clinic is located next to the Hondo Valley Schools and a Nurse Practitioner is scheduled 2 days a week. They accept walk-ins and children are completely free. Adults are charged \$30 to be seen for physical, clinical, or behavioral health services

Nutrition Facts:

The chart below shows the percent of children eligible for reduced-price or free meals.

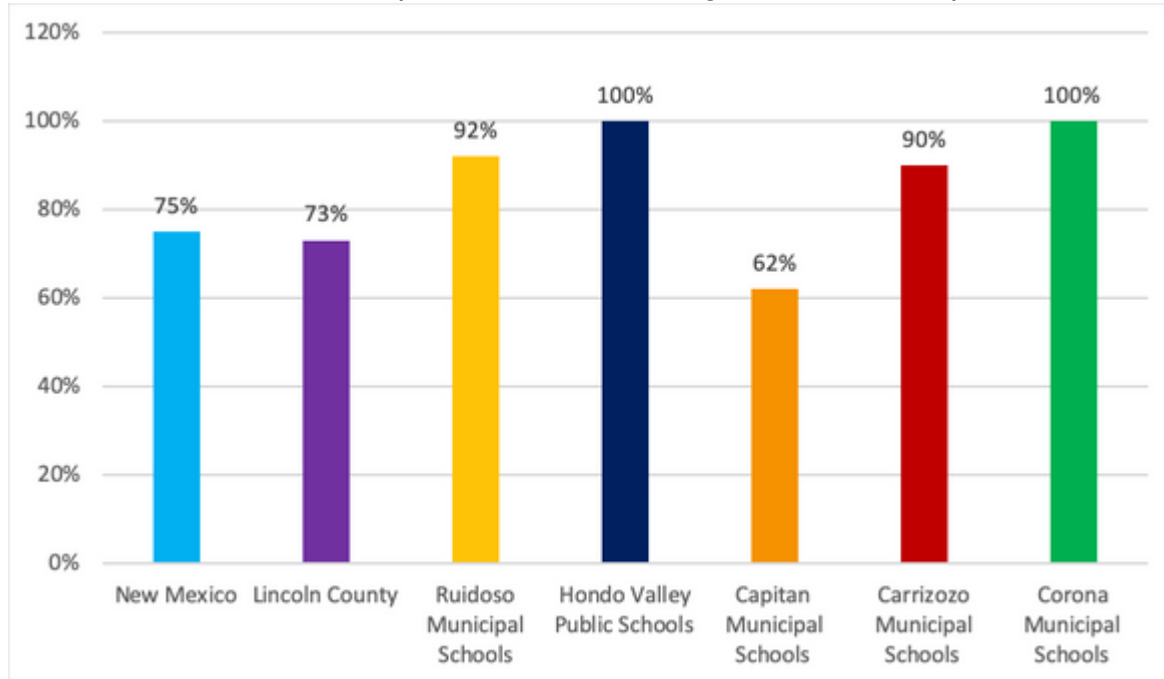


Chart 14. New Mexico Kids Count Data Book 2018

SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), commonly referred to as food stamps offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities.

222,846 New Mexico households received SNAP payments during 2018, or 17% of all households. In January 2019 there were 1,861 SNAP cases in Lincoln County, with 14% of households receiving SNAP benefits.¹⁸

The SNAP average monthly benefit for a household in New Mexico in 2016 was \$266.44. 67% of our enrolled Head Start and EHS children receive SNAP benefits.¹⁹

A food desert is defined as a low-income census tract where a substantial number of residents have low access to a supermarket or large grocery store. This highlights populations and geographies within the community facing food insecurity. Lincoln County is considered a rural county, with many residents clustered around towns and villages. Over half of Lincoln County residents have limited food access. The low income population with low food access is 3,465 residents, or 16.9% of the population.²⁰

Without a source of healthy foods in the community, the residents of this community often suffer from higher levels of obesity due to their poor diets and other obesity related diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease.

The chart below shows data from the *Presbyterian Community Health Needs Assessment 2016-2019*.

Service Area	% Population with Low Food Access	Fast Food Establishments, Rate per 100,000 Population	% Adults with Inadequate Fruit/Vegetable Consumption	% Ages 20+ with no Leisure Time Physical Activity
Lincoln County	42.46%	82.94	74.9%	22.7%
New Mexico	33.75%	70.1	77.6%	19.7%

Lincoln County has 4 grocery stores, 3 of them are located in Ruidoso and 1 is located in Capitan. Many residents commute to Ruidoso or Alamogordo to grocery shop.

The Food 4 Kids Backpack program helps families in Lincoln County by sending food home with children in backpacks once a week. 27% of parents reported the food from the program is the main source of breakfast and lunch for children during the weekends.²¹

In the 2017-2018 school year 15,843 backpacks of food were sent home with children. The cost of food per kid was \$1.16.²²

Community Resources for Nutrition:

- County Food Pantries including Lincoln County Food Bank, Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Angus Church of the Nazarene, and Christian Services of Lincoln County provide food once a month or more across Lincoln County.
- Mobile Food Pantries including Lincoln County Community Health Council Mobile Food Pantry Ruidoso, Capitan Mobile Food Pantry, Carrizozo Mobile Food Pantry, and Mescalero Food Pantry go to various places across Lincoln County to provide food once a month or more to needy families.
- Multiple Churches across Lincoln County serve free meals throughout the month so that meals are available almost each day of the week and all month long.
- BOWL Ministries (J Bar J Church) provides non-perishable food boxes.
- Boys & Girls Club and Presbyterian Health Services provides meals to children through the summer food program.



Pictured: Capitan Head Start children learning cooking skills from the culinary students

Community Health Status

The Robert Wood Johnson Program, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, has ranked the overall health of each county in New Mexico. The ranks are based on four types of measures: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic, and physical environment factors. Lincoln County is ranked 15th for overall health out of 33 counties in New Mexico.²³

Children and Youth

- 4.1% of New Mexican Mothers receive no prenatal care. 100% of mothers in Lincoln County receive prenatal care.²⁴
- There were 140 infant deaths in 2017 in New Mexico with the majority due to congenital malformations or disorders related to short gestation or low birth weight. There were 0 infant deaths in 2017 in Lincoln County.²⁵
- The low-income preschool obesity rate for Lincoln County is 13.8%.²⁶
- Lincoln County's substantiated child abuse victim rate (per 1,000 children) is 16 which is slightly higher than New Mexico's at 15.²⁷

The chart below shows percentages of substantiated child abuse by type of abuse for Lincoln County

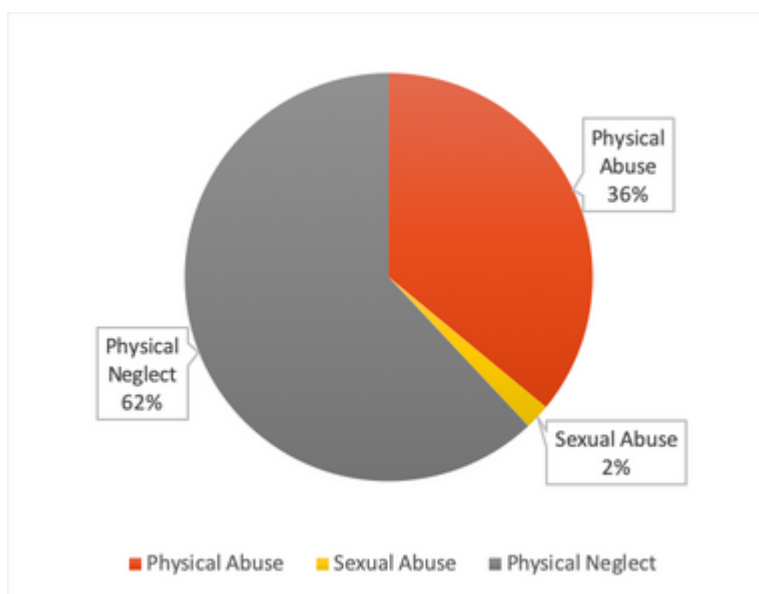


Chart 15. CYFD 360 Yearly Report

One of the largest areas of concern in Lincoln County is alcohol and drug use among children, youth, and families. Every two years New Mexico conducts the Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey and the results are below.²⁸

	New Mexico %	Lincoln County %
First Drink Before 13	20.1%	21.3%
Currently Drinking	26.1%	30.8%
First Marijuana Before 13	16.5%	7.5%
Current Marijuana	25.3%	22.1%
Pain Killers to Get High	7.9%	6.6%
Synthetic Marijuana	6.3%	6.1%
Cocaine	4.5%	4.4%
Inhalants	4.3%	3.7%
Ecstasy	4.6%	3.6%
Methamphetamine	3.2%	2.8%
Heroin	2.8%	2.6%

23 Presbyterian Healthcare Services - Community Health Needs Assessment 2016-2019. www.phs.org

24 New Mexico Kids Count Data Book 2018. www.nmvoices.org

25 & 26 New Mexico Department of Health - The State of Health in New Mexico 2018. www.nmhealth.org

27 CYFD 360 Yearly Report. www.cyfd.org

28 2017 South Central Mountains Children and Youth Summit Report

Youth use of alcohol in a variety of locations in Lincoln County is shown in the chart below

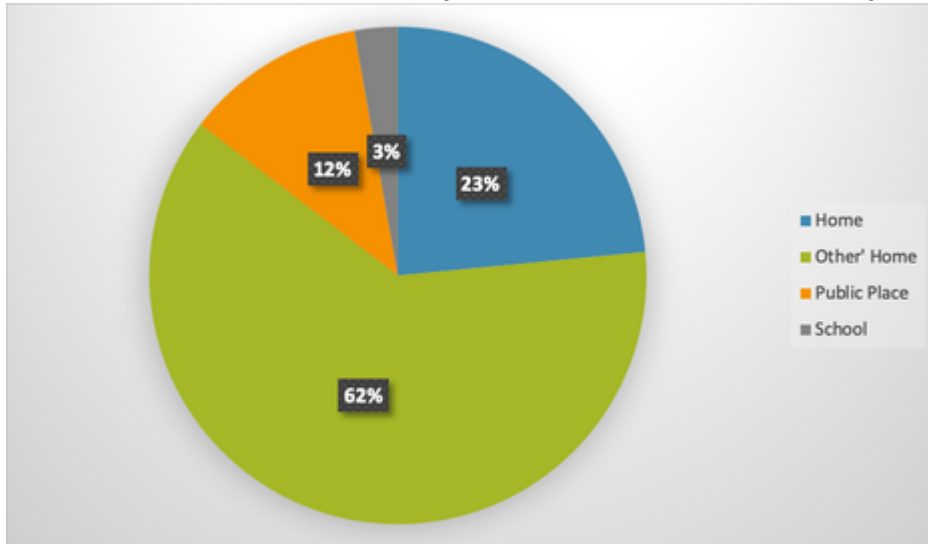


Chart 16. 2017 South Central Mountains Children and Youth Summit Report

- 21.2% of students said they were offered drugs at school.
- Lincoln County ranks the second highest in the state for the percentage of teens (ages 12-17) binge drinking at 20.4% compared to New Mexico's percentage at 10.9%.
- Lincoln County has one of the highest teen (ages 15-19) death rates in the state with 102.1 as the death rate compared to New Mexico which is 65.7.
- The percentage of adolescents in Lincoln County who are overweight or obese is 33.8%.
- 13.7% of the youth in Lincoln County (9th to 12th grade) smoke cigarettes.

Sources: 2017 South Central Mountains Children and Youth Summit Report, Presbyterian Healthcare Services - Community Health Needs Assessment

Mental Health is a prevalent topic in New Mexico and the country. Mental health issues can begin at a young age, mainly due to childhood trauma. The National Survey on Children's Health 2011/2012 found that 34% of children and youth in rural New Mexico experienced 2 or more adverse childhood experiences. Children and youth that live in poverty experience more trauma than those of higher socio-economic status. A child who has experienced adverse childhood experiences without the mitigating effects of a caring stable adult is likely to:

- Have learning and behavioral problems
- Increased health problems
- Is at a higher risk for early sexual activity
- Is at a higher risk for teen pregnancy
- Possibly have an altered brain structure

The chart below shows the percentage of youth who are at risk in Lincoln County

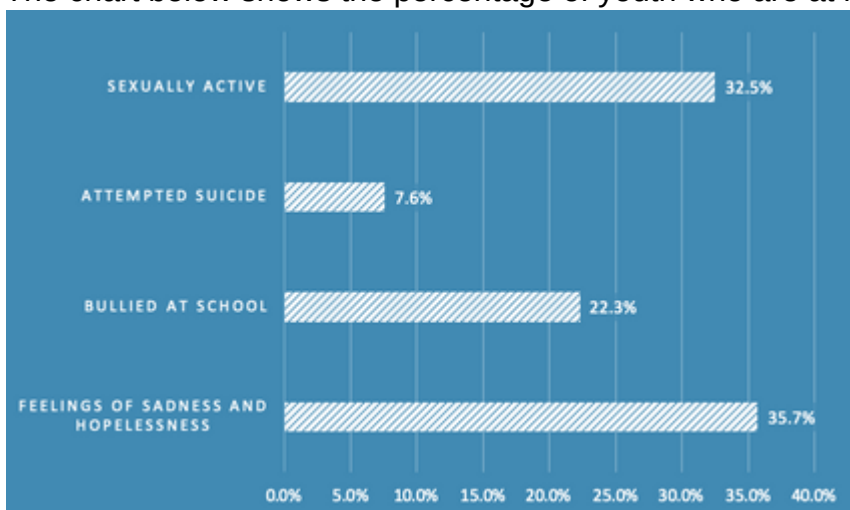


Chart 17. Community Snapshot for Lincoln County - Community Health Status Indicators

Adults

According to the New Mexico Indicator Based Information System run by the NM Department of Health, the three leading causes of death in Lincoln County are cancer, heart disease, and unintentional injuries. Below is a chart showing health concerns among adults in Lincoln County.

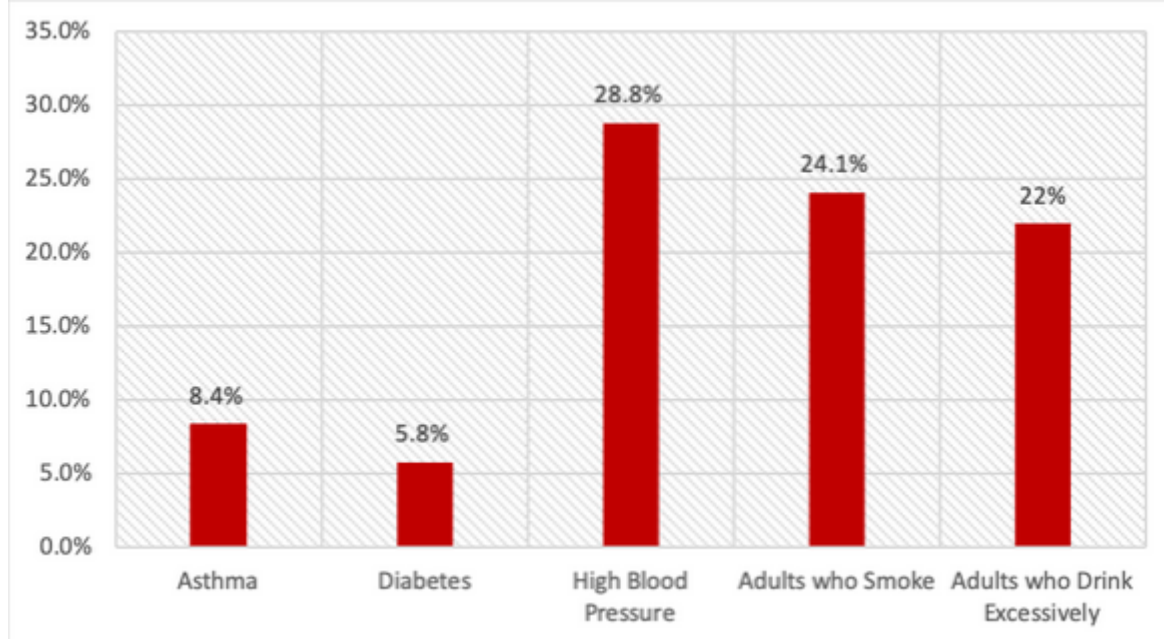


Chart 18. NM Department of Health

- According to the New Mexico Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile (2012-2016) there were 37 alcohol-related chronic disease deaths in Lincoln County, and 36 drug overdose deaths.
- 18.2% of adult drinkers in Lincoln County are binge drinkers.
- American Indian males had the highest heavy drinking rates (7.0%), followed by Hispanics (6.7%) and Whites (6.2%). American Indian males and females have the highest rates of alcohol-related chronic disease deaths in Lincoln County.

Domestic Violence

- Lincoln County ranks 3rd in the state for domestic violence rates per 1000 at 11.8%
- There were 325 adult victims of domestic violence in Lincoln County in 2017.
- 24% of the domestic violence cases in 2017 involved alcohol or drug use.
- There were 115 children victims/witnesses of domestic violence in 2017 in Lincoln County.

Source: The New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence - Domestic Violence Reports and Statistics in NM

Physical Environment

Lincoln County is located in South Central New Mexico within the Sacramento Mountain Range, the Capitan Mountains, and Sierra Blanca. The air quality is not a concern in the service area. The air toxics exposure disparity index score for Lincoln County is 0.05 compared to the U.S which is 2.36. The unsafe drinking water exposure is 25.4% due to large amount of streams and rivers in the area. The main causes of natural disasters in the service area are floods, fires, and winter storms. Forest fires are the main threat due to the vast amount of forest land surrounding homes and businesses. Crime rates are fairly low for Lincoln County compared to the state. Crimes in the service area are typically burglaries, theft, and assaults.

Source: Presbyterian Healthcare Services - Community Health Needs Assessment 2016-2019

Community Resources for Community Health Concerns:

- Aspen Creek Counseling provides counseling for children, adults, and families in need of mental health services.
- Lincoln County COPE Crisis Line for families experiencing domestic violence or abuse.
- HEAL/The Nest is a temporary home for women and their children who have experience domestic violence. They help women get back on their feet by providing assistance with finding a job and providing for their children.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services of Lincoln County help individuals who have experienced substance abuse or are in need of counseling.
- Children, Youth, and Families Department is the state child protective services department and child abuse is reported to the local CYFD office.
- Village of Ruidoso Parks and Recreation schedule year round youth sports, sports camps, local activities for families, disc golf, hiking, mountain biking, etc.
- Ruidoso and Capitan Public Libraries provide free classes to children and adults throughout the year. The Ruidoso Public Library has a children's center with summer activities.

Housing

Housing is considered to be a foundation for economic stability. When families and individuals are able to meet the basic need of shelter with a safe, stable, and affordable place to live, they can focus on other aspects of self-sufficiency. The cycle of poverty cannot be broken if families live in housing that is unaffordable or unsafe. This can cause families to move frequently which contributes to family instability, and can lead to negative health and education outcomes especially for children.

Housing Facts:

- According to the most recent New Mexico homeless Point in Time count, approximately 2,629 New Mexicans experienced homelessness in 2015.
- 963 Families with Children were homeless in New Mexico in 2015.²⁹
- Fair Market Rent in Lincoln County is \$939 for a 2-bedroom.³⁰
- 26% of Lincoln County households are renters.³¹
- 27.8% of Lincoln County renter households are considered low-income.³²
- Lincoln County has 4 affordable housing resources that are categorized as either low-income or affordable.
- The majority of housing units are unoccupied due to seasonal tourism, and an out of town population who own homes but only use them during peak tourist times throughout the year.

Total housing units, median year built, and median age for the service area are shown below. Housing units used in housing age include only those where the year built is known.

	Total Housing Units	Median Year Built	Median Age
Lincoln County	18,271	1980-1989	30
New Mexico	927,790	1985-1990	33

Source: U.S Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013-2017

29 & 30 U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development. www.hud.gov

31 & 32 U.S Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013-2017

The U.S Census Bureau estimated there were 6,878 homeowners in Lincoln County in 2012 and 78.3% owner occupied in the report area for the five year estimated period from 2013-2017.

Service Area	Owner Occupied Homes 2012	Owner Occupied Homes 2012	Owner Occupied Homes 2017	Owner Occupied Homes 2017
Lincoln County	6,878	79.4%	6,190	78.3%
New Mexico	526,495	68.9%	522,930	67.9%

Source: U.S Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013-2017

The number and percentages of occupied housing units without plumbing are shown below. Individuals with low incomes are more likely to experience unsafe or unsanitary housing conditions due to lack of availability of safe and affordable housing options.

Service Area	Occupied Housing Units 2012	Housing Units without Plumbing 2012	% without Plumbing 2012	Occupied Housing Units 2017	Housing Units without Plumbing 2017	% without Plumbing 2017
Lincoln County	8,666	162	1.9%	7,902	85	1.1%
New Mexico	763,844	9,634	1.3%	770,435	7,722	1.0%

Source: U.S Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013-2017

Community Resources for Housing:

- Camelot Place Apartments is a low income housing option in Ruidoso.
- Ladera Apartments is an affordable housing option in Ruidoso Downs with 60 units.
- La Tierra Courtyard Homes is a low-income housing option in Ruidoso. They have 60 units and accept Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers.
- Inspiration Heights Apartments is an affordable rental housing community located in Ruidoso Downs.
- LIHEAP Energy Assistance Program assists low income families with their heating costs or electricity bills.
- Eastern Regional Housing Authority is a public housing agency in Roswell, NM that operates the public housing waiting list for Lincoln County for families and seniors.

Transportation

Transportation is crucial for families and parents who are on the road to self-sufficiency. Access to reliable and safe transportation can increase a families ability to meet their needs from employment to health care. Clients, community members, and agency personnel have all identified that Lincoln County is lacking in transportation options. Transportation is a need in our community.



Pictured: Lincoln County's Z-Trans public transportation

Transportation Facts:

- 70.4% of Lincoln County workers over age 16 drive alone to work. Only 16.6% carpoolled.
- The average commute time in Lincoln County is 21.1 minutes.
- 45% of Lincoln County residents have access to 2 vehicles. Only 2.3% do not have a vehicle available.

Source: U.S Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013-2017

This table shows the method of transportation workers used to travel to work. Of the 6,979 workers in the service area, 72.3% drove to work alone while 14.9% carpoolled. 0.1% of all workers reported that they used some form of public transportation, while others used some optional means including 3.2% used a bicycle or walked to work, and 1.9% used taxicabs or other means to travel to work.

Service Area	Workers 16 and Up	% Drive Alone	% Carpool	% Public Transport.	% Bicycle or Walk	% Taxi or Other	% Work at Home
Lincoln County	6,979	72.3%	14.9%	0.1%	3.2%	1.9%	7.6%
New Mexico	875,493	80.2%	9.8%	1.1%	2.9%	1.2%	4.8%

Source: U.S Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013-2017

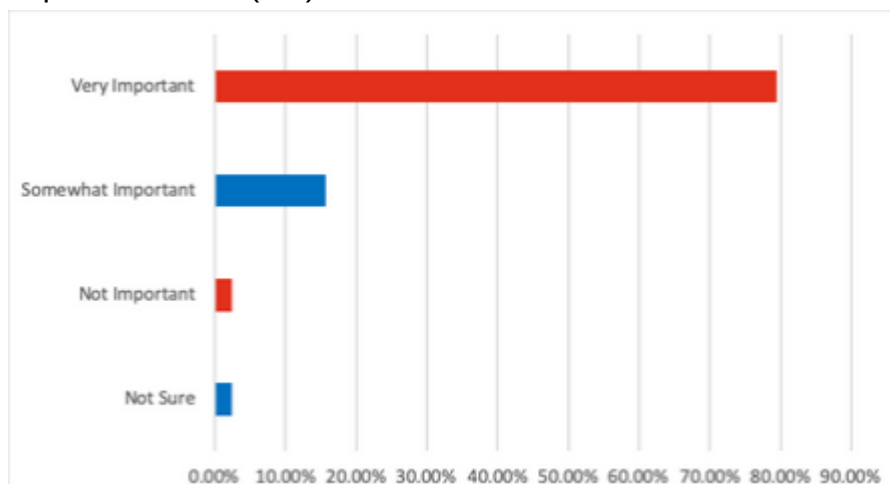
Community Resources for Transportation:

- Z-Trans Public Transportation will began operation on November 5, 2018. The routes developed include Ruidoso Downs, the Village of Ruidoso, Mescalero, and the town of Carrizozo. The Village of Capitan, Corona, and Hondo will be on an appointment basis. Trips will be completed Monday through Saturday.
- Lyft is an on demand transportation company based out of San Francisco, CA and can be used with the Lyft app on a smartphone. Fees depend on the distance and driving hours, but is offered 7 days a week.
- Care Bearers is a volunteer driver program that offers free rides to Lincoln County residents who have no other way to reach their non-emergency appointments with doctors, dentists, eye and ear care treatment specialists, physical therapists, and behavioral health care providers.
- Shuttle Ruidoso offers safe and reliable transportation across Lincoln County for passengers to get to the airport (Roswell, Albuquerque, or El Paso), and to their non emergency medical appointments. They offer state medicaid approved transportation.

Relevance and Community Needs

Region IX Head Start and Early Head Start conducted various surveys to obtain data on community needs and the relevance of the Head Start program in our community from three distinct populations - our staff, our clients, and members of the general public, and our community partners.

When asked about the Importance of Region IX Head Start & Early Head Start in the community, 66 respondents (79 percent) said very important, 13 (15%) said somewhat important, 2 (2%) said not important, and 2 (2%) said not sure.



Words that Describe Region IX Head Start/EHS



The following words were used by respondents when asked to describe what makes Region IX Head Start and Early Head Start different from other child care centers or Preschool programs in the community. The larger the word, the more times it was mentioned.



Region IX Head Start and Early Head Start's Strengths

Research respondents used the following words and phrases when asked about Region IX Head Start/EHS's strengths. The checkmarks indicate multiple similar answers

Parents

- Exposure to Materials
- Consistent
- Develop Schedules and Routines
- **Play with Children** ✓
- **Children Feel Stable/Safe** ✓
- **Educational** ✓
- **Helpful with Children and Families** ✓
- Everything
- **Socialization, Learning** ✓
- **Teachers & Staff are Informational and Welcoming** ✓
- Provide Children with Learning Opportunities
- **Great Teachers** ✓
- **Friendly and Inviting** ✓
- Focus on Children's Goals
- **Family/Parent Involvement** ✓
- Communication is Amazing
- Bilingual Staff



Online Respondents

- Give Young Children a Head Start on Education
- **Supportive for Students and Families** ✓
- Resource Knowledge
- Positivity
- **Great Staff** ✓
- **Caring** ✓
- **Teaching** ✓
- **Helpful to the Community, Families, and Children** ✓
- **Collaboration with other Region 9 Programs** ✓
- Great Hours
- Huge Help
- Diversity
- **Early Learning** ✓
- **Teach basic skills** ✓
- Children are safe
- Amazing
- Necessary
- **Encouraging** ✓
- **Compassionate** ✓
- To Reach Children with Inadequate Home Lives
- **Excellent Program** ✓
- For Families in Need ✓
- **Caring Teachers, Coordinators, and Director** ✓
- **Professional, Knowledgeable Director & Staff** ✓
- **Loving** ✓
- Very Strong
- Early Childhood Education
- Educated and Dedicated Teachers
- Appropriate Curriculum
- **Quality, Hardworking Staff** ✓

Testimonials

Parents and staff were asked if they would like to share their testimonials regarding their experience with Head Start or Early Head Start and how it impacted their family. Below is a testimonial from an Early Head Start parent, and one from a Head Start staff member who was a past Head Start parent.

Early Head Start Parent

"My name is Carlea, a young mother of two, a wife, a full time bank teller, part time student, and active member of Lincoln County. Before Early Head Start, almost none of this was possible. In the months prior to my children joining EHS, my family was on the brink of losing everything. We were counting change to get formula for our daughter, and praying we didn't run out of gas before we could get home from work.

I could only work part time and my husband was working side jobs attempting to make ends meet so I could finish an education that would lead us out of poverty. Once EHS opened, our lives completely changed. We went from begging our landlord for an extra week to pay rent to being two months ahead of rent with a cushion of savings underneath us. My kids have done nothing but blossomed with the staff at EHS. In the past two years we have been able to secure two full time jobs that keep us more than afloat and that also help us to provide for not only our children by my father who is terminally ill. Thanks to EHS things are looking up for us!"



Pictured: Carlea and her two children who attend EHS

Head Start Staff Member (Past Head Start Parent)

"My name is Joanie and here is my story. I married a man in 2000 with three children. We were living paycheck to paycheck. I was also going to college to get my degree in Early Childhood Education. We didn't qualify for assistance since my husband's ex wife had the kids most of the time. It was hard. We struggled but never gave up.

I began volunteering as a parent in my daughter's Head Start classroom in 2002. I was able to help with activities at the same time spending time with my daughter on my days off. I was a young mom and worked at our local Tastee Freeze for minimum wage. I got my associates degree in 2006. My child's Head Start teacher retired, and I applied for the teaching assistant in 2007 and got the job! I worked with Head Start for 5 years then the center closed. I worked at different places but it was nothing like Head Start. I found myself raising 3 kids alone in 2010 when I got divorced. In 2015 a lead teacher position came open for Capitan Head Start. I applied and by the grace of god I got it. I received my Bachelors degree in 2014. I was moving up slowly but I it felt good to be back with the team I knew as family.

In 2018 I applied for the Health and Transportation Manager. While on my way back from vacation I got the call that I got the job! Dreams do come true. Region IX Proud!"

Region IX Head Start and Early Head Start's Weaknesses

Research respondents used the following words and phrases when asked about Region IX Head Start/EHS's weaknesses. The checkmarks indicate multiple similar answers

Parents

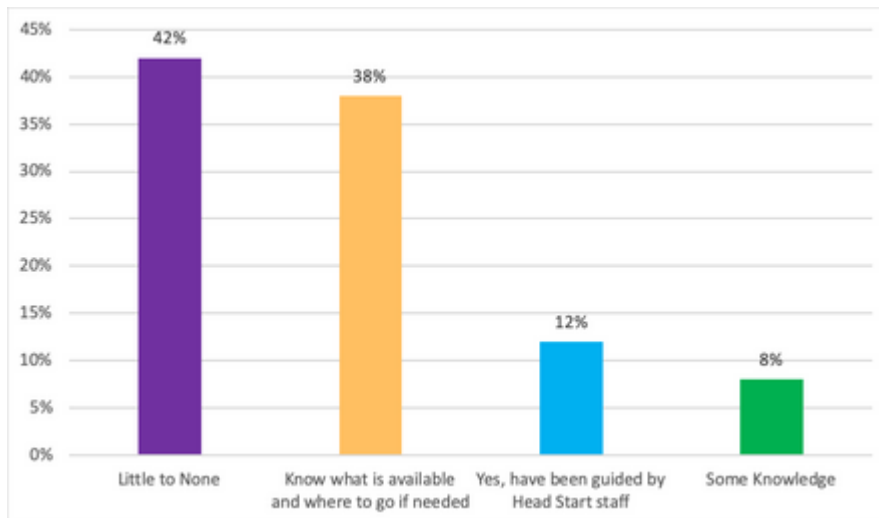
- **Communication** ✓
- **More Students** ✓
- **Take Better Care of Teachers** ✓
- Better Parking
- **Transportation/Bus** ✓
- One on One Time
- **Better Lunch Food and Hours** ✓
- Edit Handouts/Fliers
- **School on Friday/More Hours** ✓
- After School Programs
- More Support with Activities
- Bigger Classrooms
- Less Drama/Teachers More Involved with Students
- **More Classrooms/Transition Rooms for 2 Year Olds** ✓

Online Respondents

- **Only for Low Income Families** ✓
- Short Hours
- **Need Year Round Care** ✓
- **More Classrooms in Capitan and Hondo** ✓
- Disorganized
- Inadequate
- **Underfunded** ✓
- **High Employee Attrition and Turn Over** ✓
- Processed Food
- Drama in the Workplace between Peers and Supervisors
- Professionalism
- **Lack of Communication** ✓
- **Transportation** ✓
- **Expand EHS** ✓
- More Focus on 3 Year Olds
- **Funding for Qualified Teachers** ✓

Knowledge of Existing Resources

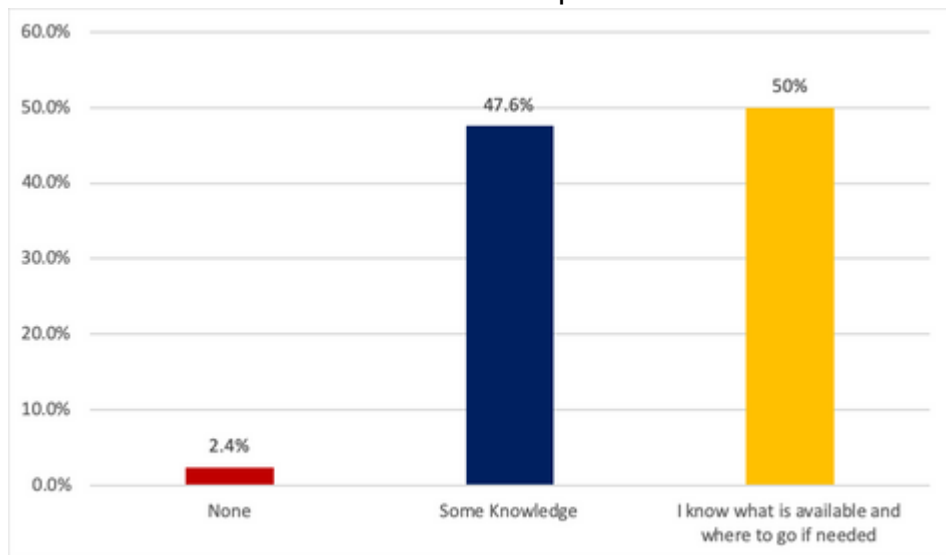
Staff and Parents were asked what knowledge they have of the current resources in our community. Their answers are as follows for 52 respondents.



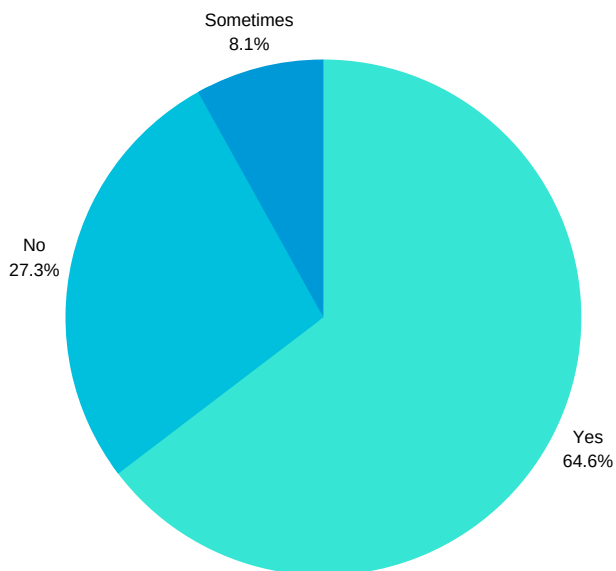
Resources Our Community Has Knowledge of:

- WIC
- SNAP
- Food Banks
- Human Resources
- Medicaid
- Region IX
- The Nest
- Local Churches
- ISD
- Food Backpack Program
- HUD
- Parks
- ENMU
- CHINS
- Health Office

Online Respondents were asked what knowledge they have of the current resources in our community. Their answers are as follows for 70 respondents.



Parents, Staff, and Community Members were asked if they felt our existing resources offer adequate service provision. The percentages of those who answered and their comments are below.



Reasons For Those That Answered No

- The wait time is too long
- Lack of trained staff and follow through
- We need better transportation
- Government housing is terrible
- Not if you are middle class
- We need more government funding and bilingual support
- We are in a rural area and have to travel
- No childcare after school
- Not over the phone - only in person
- Not all places help you as they advertise

Staff provided suggestions that they felt would improve our community resources and services

- More childcare programs
- More and affordable childcare
- More activities for our youth (parks & playgrounds)
- Transportation for Head Start
- More resources in our county so we do not have to travel
- Quality and more variety of medical care
- More dentists and doctors that accept medicaid
- Rehab and substance abuse education
- Community meetings for those members that need help in more than one language
- A 7-day a week soup kitchen
- Parent support groups & support groups in general
- More advertising of available resources

How Would You Rate the Following Areas in Your Community?

Staff, Parents, and Online Respondents were asked to rate various resources or areas of resource in their community. They were to rate the resource as adequate, somewhat adequate, inadequate, an urgent need, or not applicable. The rate percentages are shown below out of 138 respondents.

Resource	Adequate	Somewhat Adequate	Inadequate	Urgent Need	Not Applicable
Family Health Care – Medical & Dental	25.1%	36.1%	20.1%	15.3%	1.4%
Police & Fire Protection	60.9%	31.9%	7.2%	1.4%	0.7%
Public Transportation	14.5%	29.7%	37.7%	14.5%	2.9%
Parks and Recreation	55.8%	33.3%	6.5%	5.1%	0.7%
Services for Children or Adults with Disabilities	18.8%	35.5%	21%	10.1%	13%
Emergency Assistance (Food, Clothing, Shelter)	23.2%	46.4%	16.7%	9.4%	6.5%
Youth Activities and Services	25.4%	23.2%	28.3%	18.8%	4.3%
Churches and Faith Based Organizations	69.6%	18.8%	2.9%	1.4%	9.4%
Services for Victims of Domestic Violence	36.2%	41.3%	18.1%	5.1%	8%
Services for Alcohol and Drug Addiction	16.7%	24.6%	33.3%	18.8%	8.7%
Programs for Preschool Children	39.1%	31.2%	15.2%	10.9%	5.1%
Quality Child Care	19.6%	38.4%	18.8%	17.4%	6.5%
Public Schools	43.5%	36.2%	15.2%	6.5%	2.9%
Head Start/Early Head Start Programs	57.2%	24.6%	16.7%	0.7%	4.3%
Mental Health Services	21%	38.4%	19.6%	15.9%	9.4%
Opportunities for Higher Education	31.2%	43.5%	16.7%	10.9%	2.2%
Opportunities for Adult Basic Education (ESL, GED, Literacy)	41.3%	36.9%	8.7%	7.2%	9.4%
Affordable Housing	10.1%	23.9%	30.4%	34.1%	4.3%
Opportunities for Good Paying Jobs	8.7%	25.4%	34.1%	30.4%	5.1%

According to the chart above the top resources that are of urgent need are affordable housing, opportunities for good paying jobs, youth activities and services, services for alcohol and drug addiction, quality childcare, mental health services, and public transportation.

What Are Prevalent Problems in Our Community?

Staff, Parents, and Online Respondents were asked what they felt were the most prevalent problems in our community. The top responses of each group are as follows.

Parents & Staff

- 1) Drugs and Substance Abuse (39 Respondents)
- 2) Lack of Activities and Sports for Children/Youth (25 Respondents)
- 3) Lack of Affordable Childcare and Childcare in General (20 Respondents)
- 4) After School Programs for Our Children (18 Respondents)
- 5) Lack of Transportation (16 Respondents)

Online Respondents

- 1) Drugs and Substance Abuse (29 Respondents)
- 2) Affordable Housing and/or Long Term Housing Available (14 Respondents)
- 3) The Amount of Theft and Crime including Burglaries (12 Respondents)
- 4) Lack of Steady Employment and/or Lack of Good Employees (10 Respondents)
- 5) Lack of Medical Services particularly Behavioral Health (10 Respondents)

Health Priority Summary

The Lincoln County Health Council conducted an online community survey and received 530 responses. Below are Lincoln County's Top Health Concerns



What Do You Like Most About Your Community?

Staff and Parents were asked what they like most about our community. Their answers are below in order of how many times the response was stated.

- 1) Friendliness of Our Community (8 responses)
- 2) How Small Our Community Is/The Size (6 responses)
- 3) We Stick Together As a Village (6 responses)
- 4) I Feel Safe (5 responses)
- 5) The Air and Mountains (4 responses)
- 6) The Schools (4 responses)
- 7) Lots For Kids (3 responses)
- 8) People Care About Our Kids (3 responses)
- 9) Isolated (1 response)
- 10) Community Events Held (1 response)
- 11) Outside Activities (1 response)
- 12) Opportunity for Higher Education (1 response)
- 13) Good Place to Raise Kids (1 response)
- 14) Churches (1 response)
- 15) Food Banks (1 response)
- 16) Resource Availability (1 response)

Observations and Recommendations

The findings from the community assessment, staff input, and general knowledge of the service area are key factors in setting short term and long term goals for the Region IX Head Start and Early Head Start programs. This section summarizes the trends of the service area, and provides future recommendations for Region IX and the Head Start/EHS program.

Trends

1. The population decreased in Lincoln County from 2010 to 2017 and the population of children birth to five comprised 4.8% of the service area. However, there were 177 births/expectant mothers in Lincoln County in 2018. The population of children birth to five is increasing, and families are having multiple children so many siblings need Head Start and EHS services.
2. The persons in poverty ages 0-5 increased between 2010 and 2017. The population of Hispanic/Latino persons in poverty is higher than the non-hispanic population. 85% of families in Lincoln County are in poverty with the highest being married couples.
3. 69% of the children who are 3-4 years old in Lincoln County do not attend preschool.
4. 15% of the children under 5 are in family-based childcare.
5. There is a larger Hispanic population in Hondo with Head Start eligible children & families, and a quarter of the eligible children and families in Ruidoso are Hispanic.
6. The amount of daycares and preschools in the service area do not accommodate the growth of children birth to five in the service area.
7. Poverty in Lincoln County is highest among those who have less than a high school diploma. The poverty for high school graduates is 20.6%. 19.4% of our enrolled families set an FPA goal of continuing education or obtaining a GED. 26% of our enrolled families have not completed high school or received a GED.
8. Someone living in Lincoln County must make \$5.84 an hour in Lincoln County to make poverty wage. That equates to \$12,147 for the year. The median earnings for a person in Lincoln County that has less than a high school diploma will make approximately \$12,167 per year which is close to poverty wage. For a family with 2 adults working and 2 children in the home, each adult must make \$6.03 per hour to maintain poverty wage. If both adults have less than a high school diploma they will make below poverty wage.
9. The highest expenses in Lincoln County are childcare and housing.
10. 32% of Lincoln County residents birth to 64 do not have health insurance which is higher than the national rate. 10.6% of low income children in Lincoln County are uninsured.
11. There is only 1 hospital, 1 Rural Health Clinic, 1 Behavioral Health Center, 1 nursing home, and 0 Pediatricians. There are family practitioners but most do not take new patients.
12. Mental Health issues are prevalent in Lincoln County, and our youth are at risk for having increased learning and behavioral problems. 34% of children and youth in New Mexico experienced 2 or more adverse childhood experiences. There are not enough mental health resources in Lincoln County to accommodate the growing number of concerns and needs.
13. Homelessness is not a prevalent issue in Lincoln County however the fair market rent is high for the area, and is the second largest expense for a family in the service area.
14. Lincoln County has limited public transportation so most families own a vehicle or share a vehicle with either a family member or friend to get from point A to point B. Bus transportation for our Head Start children is crucial for our families.

15. Head Start and Early Head Start have high turnover rates, and teachers who receive their degrees leave our programs to either teach with the local school district or obtain a job elsewhere.
16. Head Start and EHS cannot compete with other salaries in the area if they obtain a degree higher than an associates.
17. Resources in the area are limited and community members feel they do not offer adequate service provisions because of the wait time, no childcare after school, places don't provide services they advertise, and most people have to travel to better resources.

Recommendations

Head Start staff were asked to generate recommendations of short term and long term goals for our programs based on the community assessment and general knowledge of the service area. Below are the staff's recommendations.

Short Term Recommendations:

- Staff Retention by helping TA's get their associates and Leads their bachelors
- Recruit more substitutes and offer training to increase sub retention
- Have another bilingual classroom in Ruidoso
- Get a grant for after school care
- Search funding or a grant for a transition room for children transitioning from EHS to Head Start
- Increase literacy at home and school
- Increase parent involvement and in-kind donations
- Improve communication among staff and community members

Long Term Recommendations:

- Have a building for Ruidoso Head Start and EHS together, and add more classrooms
- Serve more children in Ruidoso, Capitan, and possibly Carrizozo with Head Start and EHS
- Have a central kitchen or nutrition program that feeds all HS and EHS children, and offers cooking classes for parents and families. Possibly employ parents and families while doing on the job training.

Program Goals

Based on the staff recommendations, parent and community input, and findings from the community assessment the following are goals have been developed with objectives and an action plan. These goals may be adjusted from year to year by looking at our progress, outcomes, and challenges.

Program Goal #1: Region IX Head Start and Early Head Start will have their own Early Childhood Center together alongside Region IX Education Cooperative.

Objective #1: To increase Head Start slots in order to provide comprehensive services to more children and families in the community. Specifically, three year old children transitioning from EHS to Head Start to provide continuity of care in the Head Start program.

Program Goal #1 was developed based on the data and information from the community assessment. It was evident that there is a lack of childcare or quality educational services for children birth to five in the service area. The growing number of children from birth to five, and children transitioning out of Early Head Start contributes to the waiting lists at other childcare centers and the Head Start waiting list.

The Region IX Education Cooperative Executive Director also sees a need in the community for more quality educational services, and a need for a center that can accommodate Head Start and Early Head Start children to provide that continuity of services. This center ties into other Region IX services, and would eventually be an Early Childhood Center on a Region IX campus as part of Region IX's long term plan.

We also found through the community assessment that there is a significant amount of children and families who speak Spanish in our community. Each year we see an increase of children who are dual language learners. We found through our Self-Assessment, CLASS Scores, and School Readiness Goals that our low CLASS scores in the Instructional Support domain - specifically the language modeling dimension, correlate with the Teaching Strategies GOLD child outcomes data. It shows that children are not meeting or exceeding the objectives in GOLD for language and literacy, and the CLASS scores are the lowest in the Instructional Support domain.

There are multiple action steps within Program Goal #1 because there are many areas that correlate with having a center for children birth to five. Region IX will start the process by applying for Capital Outlay funds from the state which can be done in phases based on the funds available. Once the funds are approved for Region IX to begin planning, plans will be developed for a center to accommodate EHS and Head Start children (more if funding is available), office space, space for Early Intervention, and a commercial kitchen to provide meals.

The remaining action steps will be completed as funding is available, and throughout the 5 year project period as time and resources allow.

Program Goal #2: Region IX Head Start will help families become self-sufficient and gain access to better resources by improving the quality of family services, and providing technology & training to parents and families.

Objective #1: Facilitate medical services for children and families in the program by developing more community partnerships that can help with the shortage of medical services in our community, and provide technology (laptops or iPads) so parents can access their family's medical records, or find medical insurance.

Objective #2: To better serve families by increasing resources related to adult education, job training, career skills (resumes, interview skills), employment, and housing; and providing technology to help build skills needed to find a job or apply for school, find housing, and anything else to achieve self-sufficiency.

Program Goal #2 was developed based on the data and information from the community assessment and program data. There were two areas that fell under family services that stood out in the community assessment and program data. One was medical/health services, and the other was employment and job skills.

The community assessment showed that there is a lack of medical services available to children and families in the service area. This includes medical providers, dentists, immunizations, and mental health providers. Most medical providers accept medicaid but do not take new patients or have a long wait time between appointments. Families with medicaid can access the Emergency Room for care but generally have to wait 4-5 hours to be seen. There is only 1 dentist in the service area who accepts Medicaid and families have expressed they do not care for his services.

The program goal has two objectives. The first objective covers the medical services aspect of family services. The second objective covers another area under family service that was prevalent in the program data, assessment, and community input. Our goal as a program in general is to provide quality services to children and families so that parents can become self-sufficient. The first step for parents to become self-sufficient and break the cycle of poverty is to either attend school to better their chances of finding a job, find a job, keep a job, and improve their employment skills. We want to provide services to their children so they can work and go to school to better their chances of getting out of poverty. It was also evident that living expenses are high in our service area due to it being a tourist destination, and an overall more expensive place to live in New Mexico.

To implement these two objectives we would first have to provide technology to our parents to access medical records online, apply for insurance, find housing, research job skills, resumes, etc. This would allow the Family Advocates to work one on one with parents and families to get the resources they need. Second, we would need to develop better community partnerships with medical and dental providers in the community and maybe outside the service area to possibly provide some on-site medical services to our children so parents don't have to take a whole day off to drive to another doctor, or go get their medical records because doctors are not sending us physicals and dentals in a timely fashion. This would allow us to meet our 45 and 90 day deadlines more efficiently.

We would also provide parent trainings/workshops around health and employment skills, budgeting, etc.

Acknowledgements

Region IX Head Start and Early Head Start would like to thank all of those who provided information included in this community assessment. We are especially grateful to our parents, staff, and community partners for sharing their time and opinions in surveys. We appreciate our staff members who gathered and analyzed data. We would also like to acknowledge the many research organizations listed at the beginning of this assessment whose work on data collection and analysis made this community assessment possible.

Appendices

Community Assessment Survey

This survey was a paper survey sent out to staff, parents, and Lincoln County community members. The following are the questions asked in the survey.

1. What do you feel are prevalent problems in our community?
2. What knowledge do you have of our community's existing resources?
3. List the resources that our community has knowledge of.
4. Do you feel that our existing resources are accessible?
5. Do you feel that our existing resources offer adequate service provision? Comment why
6. Do you feel our community is in need of additional resources not currently offered? What do we need?
7. Please provide suggestions you feel might improve our community resources and services.
8. What is your marital status?
 - a. Married
 - b. Single
 - c. Widowed
 - d. Significant Other
9. Do you or your spouse/significant other work outside the home?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. N/A
 - d. Full-Time
 - e. Part-Time
 - f. Self-employed
10. Do you have children?
11. How many children do you have in each age group?
 - a. Under 3
 - b. 3-5
 - c. 5-10
 - d. 10-17
12. What type of child care do you use? Check all that apply.
 - a. Childcare center
 - b. Head Start
 - c. EHS
 - d. Child Care Home

- e. Home with relative
 - f. Home with non relative
 - g. Pre-K
 - h. Other
13. Do you currently use the NM Subsidy Program?
14. What do you think is the biggest issue in your community?
15. What do you like most about your community?
16. Please Rate the Following either Adequate, Somewhat Adequate, Inadequate, Urgent Need, or Not Applicable.
- a. Family Health Care - Medical & Dental
 - b. Police and Fire Protection
 - c. Public Transportation
 - d. Parks and Recreation
 - e. Services for Children or Adults with Disabilities
 - f. Emergency Assistance (Food, Clothing, Shelter)
 - g. Youth Activities and Services
 - h. Churches and Faith Based Organizations
 - i. Services for Victims of Domestic Violence
 - j. Services for Alcohol and Drug Addiction
 - k. Programs for Preschool Children
 - l. Quality Child Care
 - m. Personal Safety - Do you feel safe?
 - n. Public Schools
 - o. Head Start/EHS Programs
 - p. Mental Health Services
 - q. Opportunities for Higher Education
 - r. Opportunities for Adult Basic Education
 - s. Affordable Housing
 - t. Opportunities for good paying jobs

Community Assessment Survey - Survey Monkey

This survey was created on Survey Monkey and was sent to Region IX staff, Head Start/EHS Staff, and posted on the Region IX Head Start/EHS Facebook Page with multiple shares from staff and parents. Community members were able to fill out the survey as well as parents and families.

The questions on the survey were as follows:

1. What do you believe are prevalent problems in our community?
2. What knowledge do you have of our community resources?
3. List any resources you are familiar with in our community.
4. Rate the areas/resources (just like above)
5. Have you heard of Region IX Head Start or Early Head Start?
6. How important are the Head Start programs to our community?
7. Use 1-2 words to describe the Head Start/EHS programs.
8. Use 1-5 words to describe what makes Region IX Head Start/EHS different from other childcare centers.
9. Use words or phrases to describe the strengths of the Region IX Head Start/EHS programs
10. Use words or phrases to describe the weaknesses of the Region IX Head Start/EHS programs



Region IX Education Cooperative
143 El Paso Rd. Suite 1
Ruidoso, NM 88345
www.rec9nm.org