

# 2023 State Report on the Status of Boys and Men in New Mexico



GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR  
**BOYS & MEN**

Supporting boys and men and  
the women who love them

## Table of Contents

Mission and Values Statements.....	Page 3
Topics of Critical Issues Facing Boys and Men.....	Page 4
Key Takeaways from the Report.....	Page 5
Physical and Mental Health.....	Page 6-9
K-12 and Higher Education.....	Pages 10-11
Jobs, Careers, and Financial Health.....	Page 12
Fatherhood, Family, and Relationships.....	Page 13
Criminal Justice and Court Systems.....	Page 14
Male Narrative in the Public Discourse.....	Page 15
References.....	Pages 16-20





## Our Mission

To inform policy-makers, professionals, researchers, educators, parents and the media in New Mexico and the nation on the status of boys and men in six key areas. The research and data presented in this report should be used to inform those in positions of authority to implement changes that improve the outcomes of boys and men.

## Our Values

Our values are rooted in verifiable and reliable data. Given the rising challenges boys and men face in a number of measurable areas over the past several decades, the time has come to produce an annual report that compiles, measures, analyzes, and shares essential data on the status of boys and men in New Mexico. In doing so, New Mexicans will have the data they need to make the informed policy decisions that lead to successful outcomes.

## A Bipartisan Issue

The education, physical & mental health, careers, and family circumstances that impact boys and men and the women who love them are issues all New Mexicans can support.

The troubling outcomes of boys and men are seen in adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), poorer educational outcomes, opioid deaths, suicides, homelessness, homicide deaths and diseases of despair that impact families and communities.

Legislators on both sides of the aisle can certainly come together to address these issues, and a Commission on the Status of Boys and Men would go a long way in educating the public and policy makers as they look for solutions that lead to measurable outcomes and allow boys and men to contribute to society according to their full potential.

## Our Vision

Every boy and man is healthy, safe, prosperous, and encouraged to achieve his full potential.

# Critical Issues Facing Boys and Men in New Mexico

4

**A New Mexico Commission on Boys and Men should be established to address the unique challenges boys and men face.**

This past year has been particularly difficult for boys and men, and the pandemic has exacerbated areas where boys and men have already fallen behind and are experiencing lifetime hardships. Boys and men have been disproportionately impacted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in a number of areas and the pandemic has worsened the long neglected status of boys and men. New Mexico has seen troubling outcomes for boys and men in six key areas over several decades.



**Physical and Mental  
Health**



**Education**



**Jobs, Careers, and  
Financial Health**



**Fatherhood, Family,  
and Relationships**



**Criminal Justice  
System and Court  
Systems**



**Male Narrative in the  
Public Discourse**

# Key Takeaways from the Report

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Several key findings from our research are highlighted below to help educate New Mexicans about the status of boys and men and the need to respond with purpose.

Education and Employment in NM	Physical and Mental Health in NM	Fatherhood, Family, Youth and Policy in NM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>From 2015 to 2019, only <b>21% of 8th grade boys read at grade level</b>.</li><li>In 2022, only <b>15% of boys read at grade level</b> according to the Nation's Report Card (NAEP).</li><li>In 2021, men were only <b>37% of two-year college enrollment</b>.</li><li>In 2021, men were only <b>40% of four-year college enrollment</b>.</li><li>In 2020 and 2021, <b>male unemployment was higher</b> than female unemployment.</li><li>Males are <b>94% of workplace deaths</b>.</li><li>Males are <b>only 24% of public school teachers</b>.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In 2021-2022, boys and men were <b>79% of suicide deaths</b>.</li><li>From 2018-2022, <b>boys 12-19 years</b> of age were 76% of suicide deaths in their age group.</li><li>In 2021-22, males were <b>71% of all unintentional overdose deaths</b>.</li><li>In 2021, males were <b>69% of opioid deaths, up 3%</b> from 2020.</li><li>In 2022, <b>71% of alcohol deaths</b> were male, <b>up 3%</b> from 2021.</li><li>In 2020 &amp; 2021, males were <b>82% of homicide deaths</b>. Up 5% from 2019.</li><li><b>55% of those without health insurance</b> in New Mexico are male.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>53% of New Mexican children</b> are born to unwed parents.</li><li>In 2021, <b>62% of Native American children</b> lived in single parent homes.</li><li><b>71% of the homeless</b> are male.</li><li>92% of <b>homeless Veterans</b> are male.</li><li>In 2022, <b>boys were 77% of detained juveniles</b>. Males are detained more in all racial groups.</li><li><b>New Mexico does not have a state commission on boys and men</b> but it does have a state commission on women and girls with 13 female commissioners statewide.</li></ul>





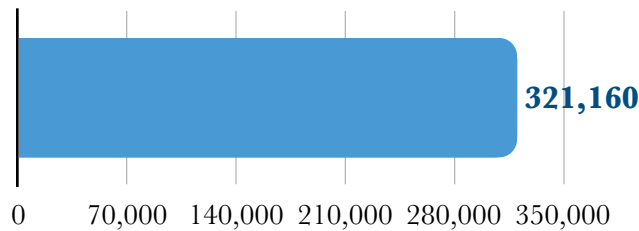
A New Mexico Commission on the Status of Boys and Men could ensure healthier lives for New Mexico's boys and men by addressing growing disparities and troubling outcomes. Data on healthcare access, affordability, and quality of care in NM and nationally shows boys and men are further behind. And the COVID pandemic has only worsened the problem.

55%

## New Mexico's Uninsured

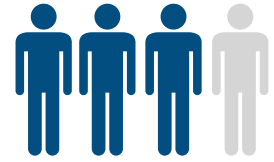
- Males make up the majority of New Mexico's underserved population. Males make up 55% of New Mexicans without health insurance.
- In the U.S., there are 13.6 million uninsured males 20 to 64 years of age.
- In the U.S., the Male-Gender-Gap in health insurance is 3.3 million.

## Male Cancer Deaths in US 2020



Males are 53% of estimated cancer deaths.

NM Males are 73% of alcohol related deaths since 2000.



Almost **3 in 4** men (73.3%) are considered overweight or obese.



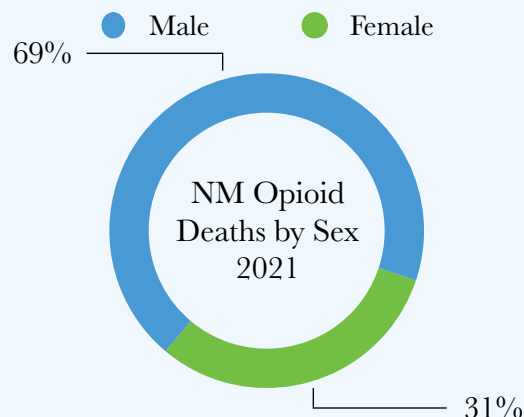
Males are 57% of New Mexico Covid Deaths from 2020 to 2023.

77%

## Suicides

- NM Boys 10-14 are **69%** of suicide deaths in their age group.
- NM boys and men are **77%** of suicides.
- Males are **3.3 times** more likely to die of suicide.
- NM Men 65+ and over are **84%** of suicide deaths in their respective age group.

A 10 year analysis of NM opioid deaths from the National Center of Health Statistics and Kaiser Family Foundation **identified opioid deaths as a serious male problem.** Males accounted for 66% of opioid deaths in 2020. From 2010 to 2020, males accounted for 65% of opioid deaths. Boys' and men's inequities are compounded due to lack of services. With an increase in opioid deaths in 2021-2022, these numbers are likely to increase.



## U.S. Suicide and Opioid Deaths

73%



Nearly 800,000 (787,096) boys and men in the U.S. have lost their lives to suicide and opioid deaths from 2009 to 2021. Opioid deaths increased 66% from 2019 to 2021. (If we include non-opioid overdose deaths, **that number reaches 945,360 male lives.**)

The deaths of despair are a predominately male occurrence. Breaking down the deaths of despair at the intersection of race/ethnicity and sex shows that males across all racial groups account for the majority of suicide, overdose, and alcohol deaths within their own race and nearly across all groupings. In instances when a particular group was excluded from the tables below, the CDC data was suppressed. In instances when the CDC per-capita rates were unreliable, GIBM used a predictive model, *indicated with an asterisk*, to assess per-capita.

#### Percent of Suicide Deaths by Race/Ethnicity and Sex in New Mexico 2018-2022

Race/Ethnicity and Sex	% of Suicides	% of Population	Deaths Per 100,000
American Indian/Alaska Native Male	9.8%	4.30%	57.5
White Male	37.8%	18.40%	51.9
Black Male	1.6%	1.10%	35.8
Hispanic or Latino Male	27.7%	25.10%	27.9
Asian Male*	0.6%	0.70%	21.3*
White Female	11.4%	18.60%	15.5
More than one race Male*	0.5%	0.80%	14.4*
American Indian/Alaska Native Female	2.7%	4.66%	14.5
Asian Female*	0.4%	0.90%	11.8*
Hispanic or Latino Female	6.5%	25.39%	6.5

#### Percent of Overdose Deaths by Race/Ethnicity and Sex in New Mexico 2018-2022

Race/Ethnicity and Sex	% Overdose Deaths	% of Population	Deaths Per 100,000
Black Male	2.2%	1.1%	70.6
Hispanic or Latino Male	40.2%	25.1%	56.0
American Indian/Alaska Native Male	5.60%	4.3%	45.8
White Male	20.9%	18.4%	39.7
Black Female	0.90%	0.83%	35.9
More than one race Male	0.6%	0.8%	23.9
Hispanic or Latino Female	16.4%	25.4%	22.6
American Indian/Alaska Native Female	2.7%	4.7%	20.1
White Female	10.1%	18.6%	19.0
Asian Male*	0.4%	0.7%	18.7*

**Percent of the Alcohol Deaths by Race/Ethnicity and Sex New Mexico 2018-2022**

<b>Race/Ethnicity and Sex</b>	<b>% of Alcohol</b>	<b>% of Population</b>	<b>Deaths per 100,000</b>
American Indian or Alaska Native Male	21.90%	4.3%	214.3
American Indian or Alaska Native Female	12.9%	4.7%	115.4
Hispanic or Latino Male	27.4%	25.1%	45.7
White Male	19.3%	18.4%	44.0
More than one race Male*	0.4%	0.8%	19.2
Black Male	0.5%	1.1%	19.2
White Female	8.3%	18.6%	18.5
Black Female*	0.30%	0.83%	17.4
Hispanic or Latino Female	9.0%	25.4%	14.9

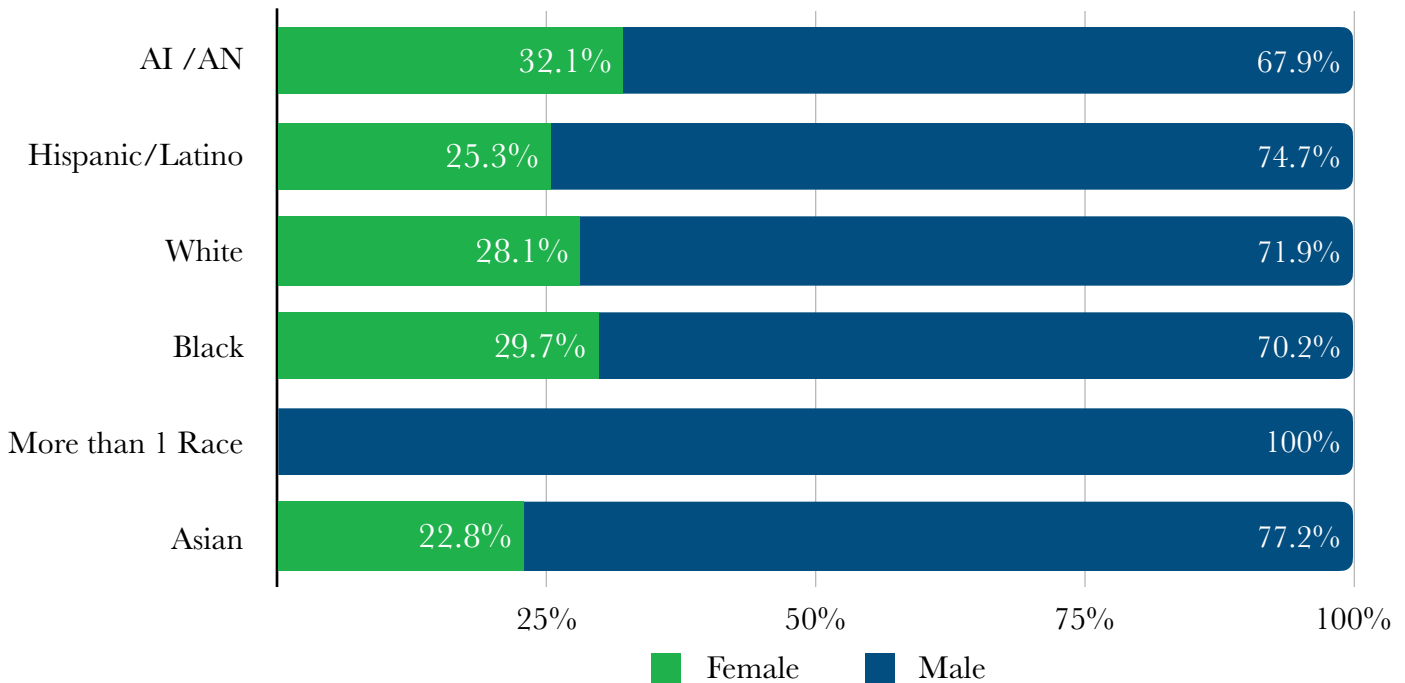
**Percent of the Deaths of Despair and Percent of Population in New Mexico 2018-2022**

<b>Race/Ethnicity and Sex</b>	<b>% Deaths of Despair</b>	<b>% of Population</b>	<b>Deaths Per 100,000</b>	<b>Total Lives</b>
American Indian/Alaska Native Male	13.40%	4.3%	317.6	1,408
American Indian/Alaska Native Female	6.9%	4.7%	150.0	724
White Male	24.5%	18.4%	135.6	2,583
Black Male	1.4%	1.1%	125.6	144
Hispanic or Latino Male	31.9%	25.1%	129.6	3,367
More than one race Male	0.5%	0.8%	57.5	48
Black Female	0.40%	0.83%	53.3	46
White Female	9.7%	18.6%	53.0	1,023
Hispanic or Latino Female	11.0%	25.4%	44.0	1,156
Asian Male	0.3%	0.7%	40.0	30
Asian Female	0.1%	0.9%	11.8	11





Percent of Deaths of Despair within Race/Ethnicity by Sex



Note: Data collected for Diseases of Despair, often referred to as Deaths of Despair, were single race based except for more than 1 race.

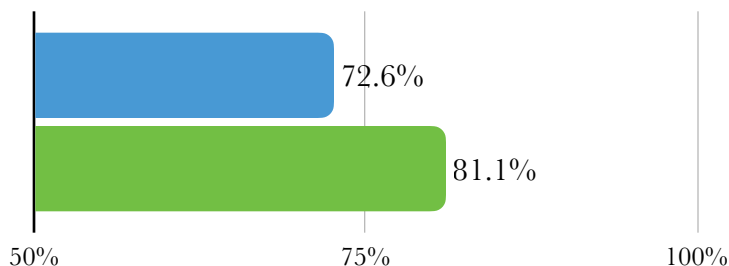
## Understanding the Data

*The Diseases of Despair (Suicide, Overdose, and Alcohol Deaths) are a predominately male occurrence. Disaggregating data at the intersections of race/ethnicity and sex reveals the disproportionate number of males facing these problems in New Mexico and every state in the country and why it is critical data is disaggregated in this manner.*

A review of nearly 1.1 million New Mexico state test scores in reading and math from 2015-2019 and the Nation's Report Card (NAEP) scores from 2022 shows boys are behind in reading at all grade levels. Enrollment in 2-year and 4-year colleges further reveals the skill deficits boys face.



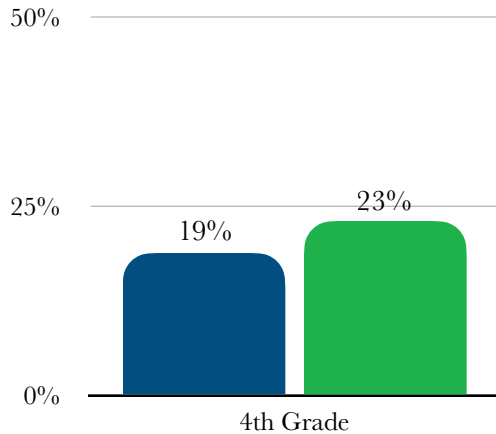
## NM High School Graduation Rates 2021



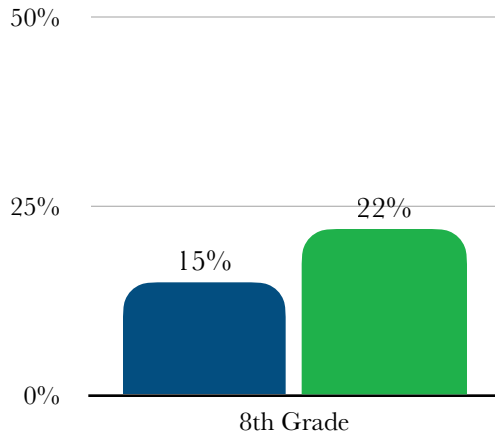
## New Mexico's Boy Literacy-Gap

The boy literacy gap in New Mexico reveals that boys are dramatically behind in reading. From 2015 to 2019, there were 130,000 males in 9th to 11th grades who were not proficient in reading. **Over a 10-year span, that would equate to 325,000 males unable to read** at grade level in 9th through 11th grades.

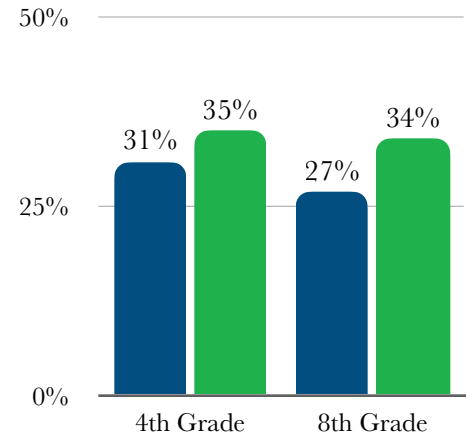
NM NAEP 4th Grade Reading at or Above Proficiency 2022



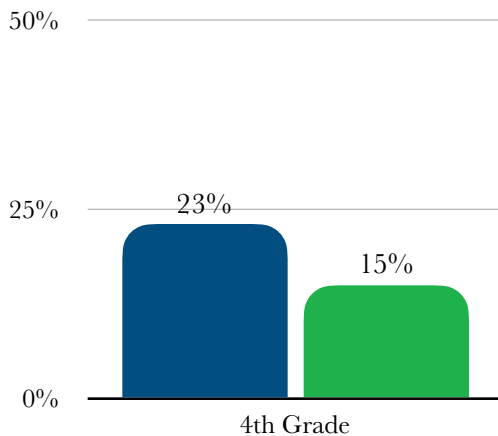
NM NAEP 8th Grade Reading at or Above Proficiency 2022



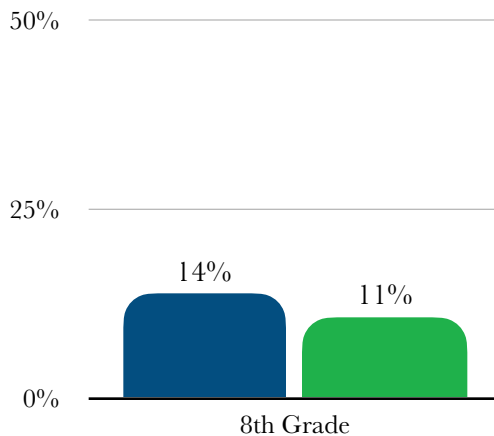
National (NAEP) 4th & 8th Grade Reading Proficient or Above 2022



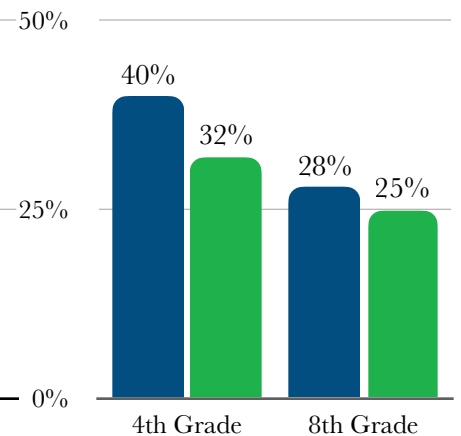
NM NAEP 4th Grade Math at or Above Proficiency 2022



NM NAEP 8th Grade Math at or Above Proficiency 2022

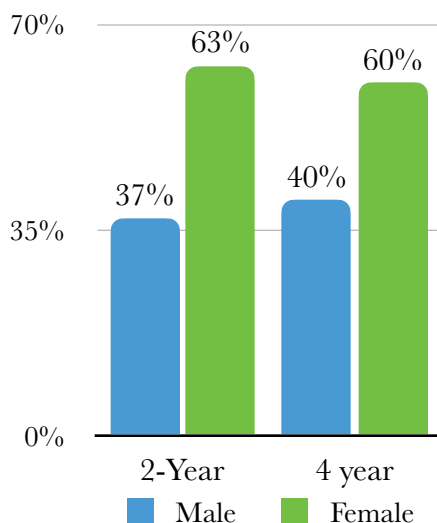


National (NAEP) 4th & 8th Grade Math Proficient or Above 2022



Male Students Advanced/Proficient  
Female Students Advanced/Proficient

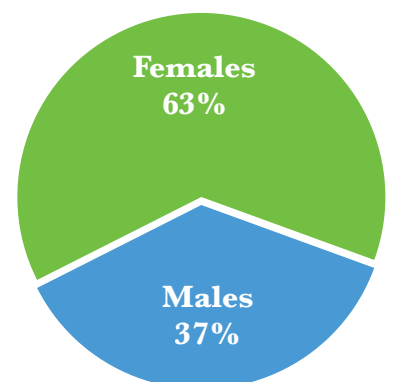
NM 2-Year and 4-Year College Enrollment 2021



## U.S. Male Gender -Gap in College

- Males are **underfunded** in Pell Grants by **\$6.4 billion annually**.
- Males are underrepresented in undergraduate programs by **more than 2 million every year** and have been since 2003.
- **From 2016 to 2020**, women earned 2.8 million more degrees than males.
- **In 2019-2020**, males only accounted for 39% of associate degrees, 42% of bachelor degrees, 39% of master degrees and 46% of doctoral degrees.

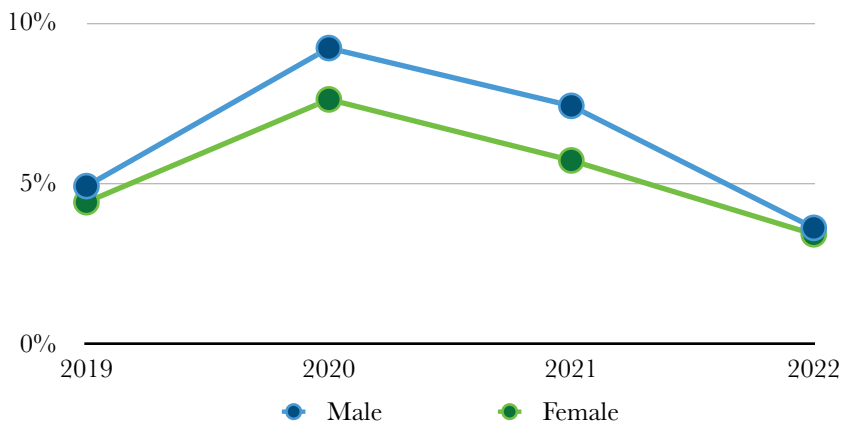
U.S. Pell Grant Funding by Sex for Years 2003-04 to 2015-16



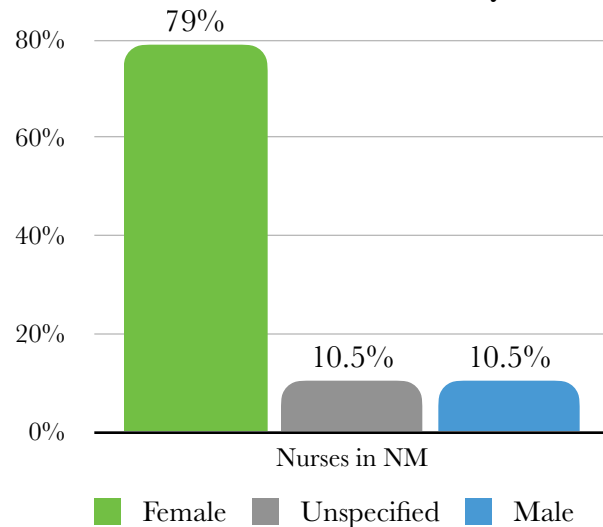


A diverse outlook regarding outcomes of males in employment, financial health, and areas where males are underrepresented and struggling would play a significant role in ensuring policy actions lead to positive and measurable outcomes for men and women.

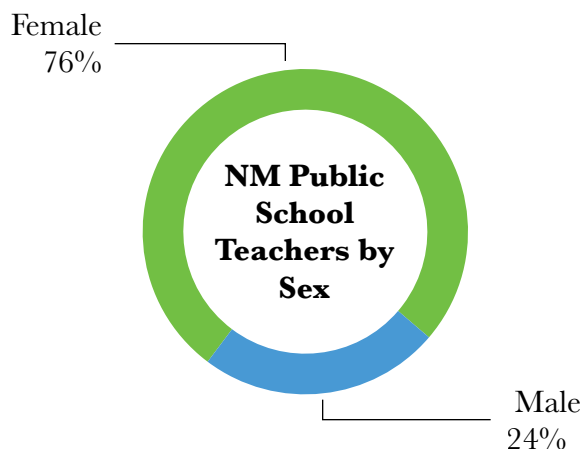
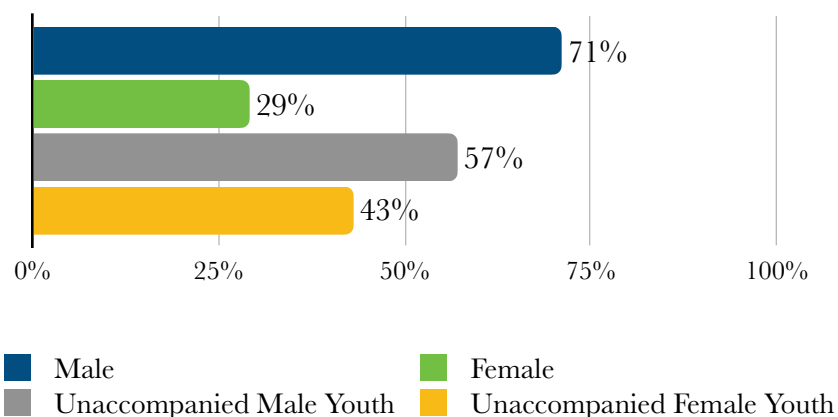
**Unemployment Trends in New Mexico  
2019-2022 for 20 to 64 year-olds**



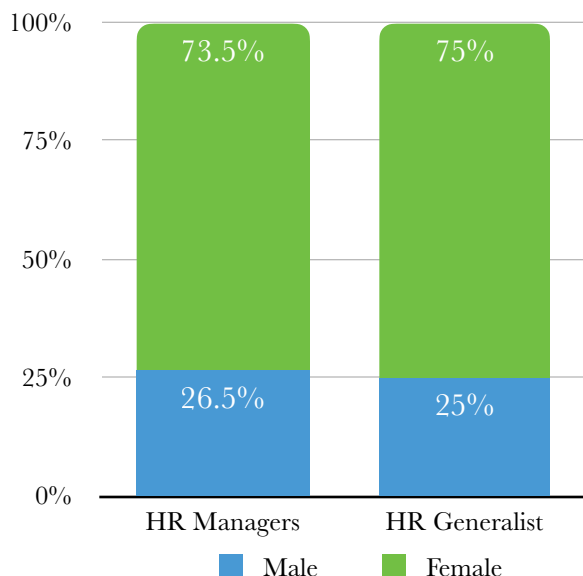
**New Mexico's Nurses by Sex**



**New Mexicans Unsheltered Homeless**

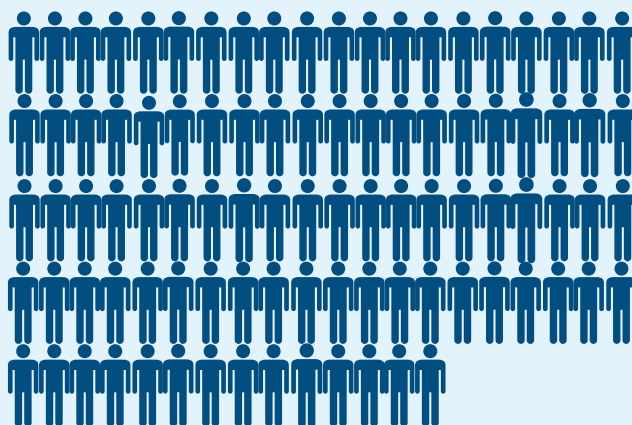


**Human Resources Personnel in  
US by Sex 2020**



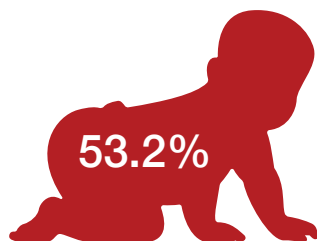
94%

**NM Fatal Occupational Injuries**



**Males are**  
94% of fatal  
occupational  
injuries in  
New Mexico  
according to  
U.S. Bureau  
of Labor  
Statistics  
data from  
2018-2021

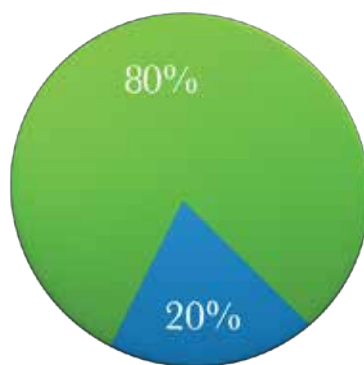
Parental rights, child support agreements, births to unmarried mothers, and child maltreatment are a state and national concern. Fathers face greater obstacles and children often receive the fallout of these social challenges. Mothers also face challenges when fathers are not involved. Sexual abuse against males is likely higher than reported.



53% of New Mexico's births are to unmarried parents.

New Mexico received a D- on the National Parents Organization 2022 Child Support and Shared Parenting Report Card.

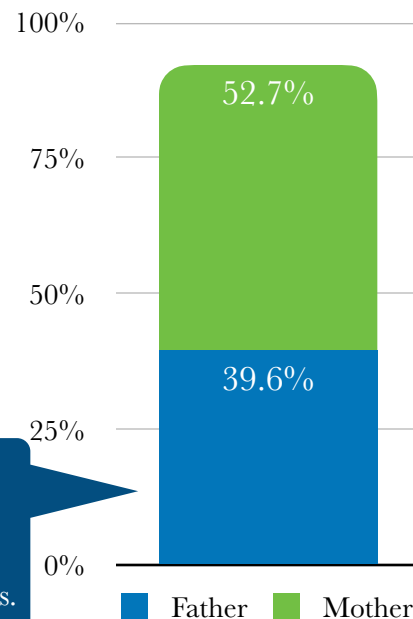
**Custodial Parents in US**



● Father ● Mother

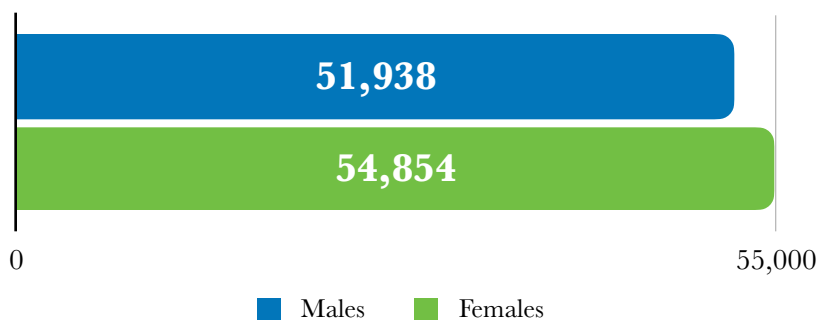
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, custodial fathers are less likely to have child support agreements than custodial mothers.

**Percent of Custodial Parents with Child Support Agreements by Sex**



■ Father ■ Mother

**Estimated Victims of Intimate Partner Violence by Sex in New Mexico 2021**



■ Males ■ Females

**Sexual Abuse of Boys**

“Contrary to expectations, boys report greater exposure to sexual abuse.”  
*(Journal of Adolescent Health)*

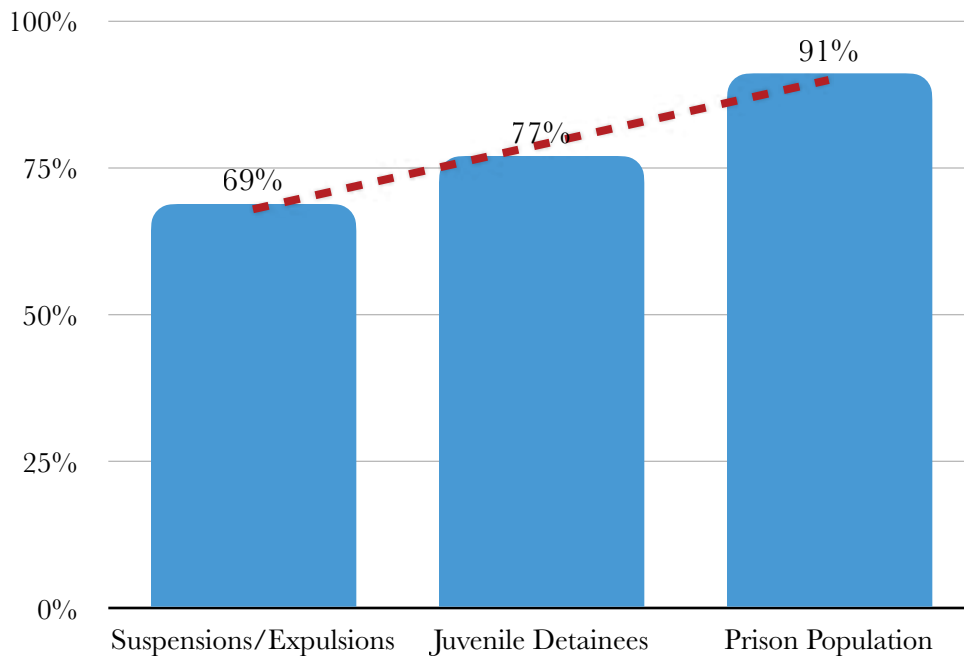
“Sexual violence against men and boys is a significant problem.... It is one that has largely been neglected in research. Rape and other forms of sexual coercion directed against men and boys take place in the home, the workplace, schools, on the streets, in the military and during war, as well as in prisons and police custody” (*World Health Organization*).



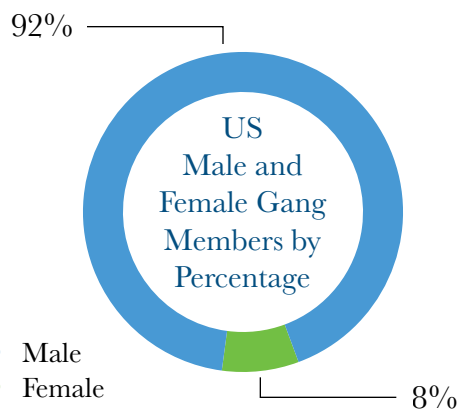
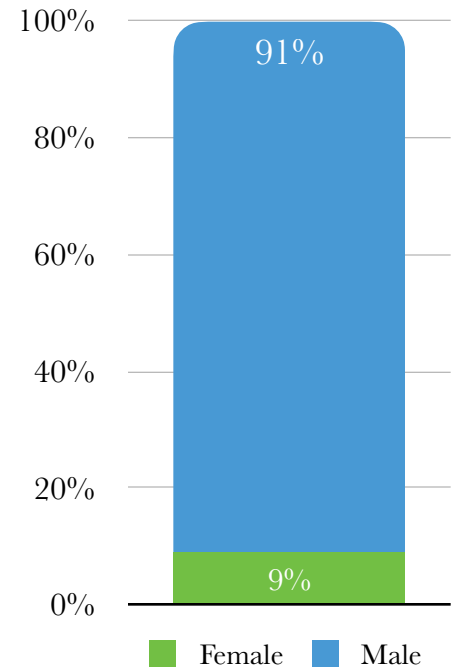
According to the CDC, nearly 16 million U.S. men have been victims of intimate partner violence

The school to prison pipeline has been a demonstrably male problem at the state and national level. New Mexico shows a clear linear path in the treatment of boys in K-12 education, juvenile court, and prison populations. The school to prison pipeline is a disturbing trend associated with a poor education, lack of father involvement, a history of poverty, abuse, and neglect, an isolation from society, and a lack of access to counseling and other services.

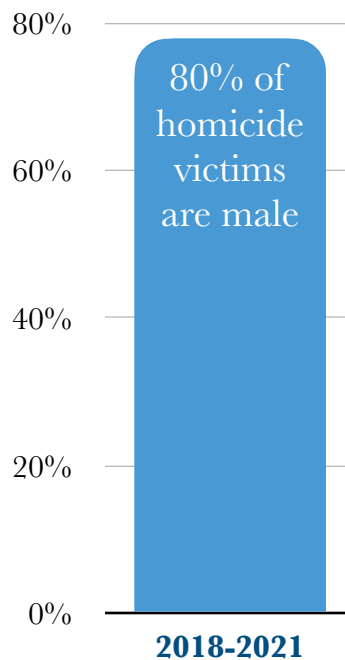
### NM Males and the School to Prison Pipeline



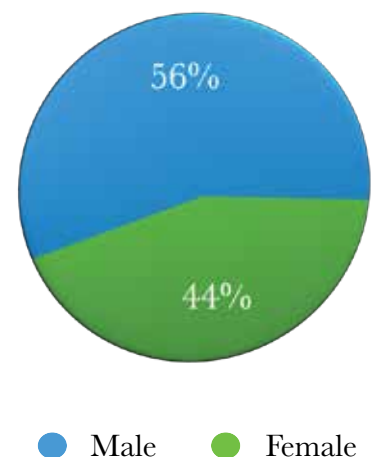
### New Mexico State Prison Population



### NM Homicides

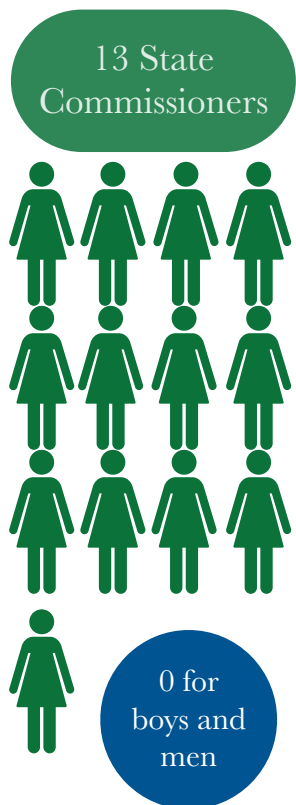


### New Mexico Missing Persons by Sex





The status of boys and men is practically absent from New Mexico policy and its social narrative. Creating a New Mexico Commission on the Status of Boys and Men similar to New Mexico's Commission on the Status of Women would help educate policymakers on the outcomes of boys and men and allow for more informed policy actions.

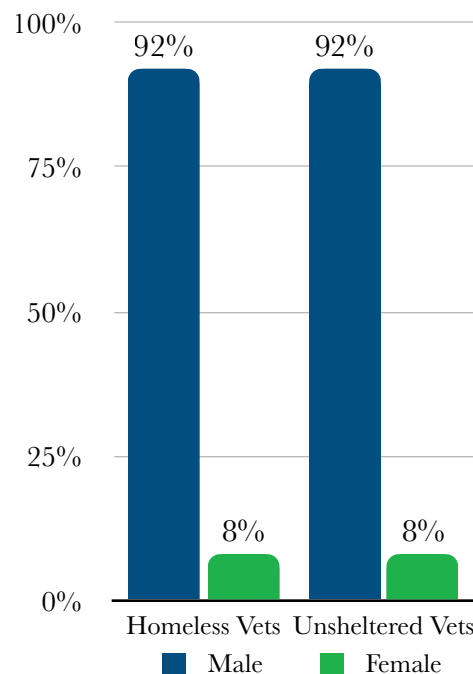


NM Commission on Status of Women 2022 State General Fund Appropriations



New Mexico does not have any state, county, and city commissions on boys and men.

Veteran Homelessness



The Commission seeks \$850,000 for its 2023-2024 budget, including a summit estimated at \$100,000



Equity and inclusion programs largely ignore outcomes for boys and men by bringing far less attention and services to the challenges boys and men face.



[https://www.womenshelters.org/sta/new\\_mexico](https://www.womenshelters.org/sta/new_mexico) lists 13 cities in New Mexico with women's shelters. There is no such resource listed for boys and men.



*Domestic Violence Services for men remains largely unsupported.*

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