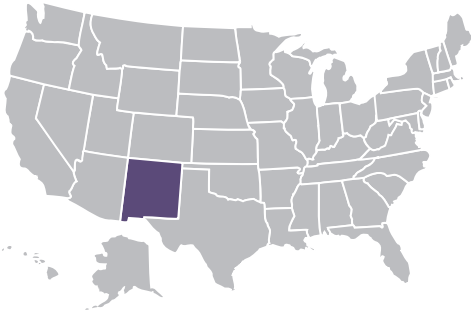


Issue Brief

INCOME IN NEW MEXICO



As of 2009, 18.0% ($\pm 1.2\%$) of the New Mexico population—350,000 people—lived in poverty.

WHAT IS SOCIETAL DISTRESS?

Societal distress describes living conditions that do not satisfy basic human needs, such as food, shelter, health, income, and education.

Visit www.societaldistress.org for more details.

What are income and poverty?

As used here, **income** refers to the money received by a household in the preceding calendar year. **Poverty** refers to the condition in which household income falls below the official federal poverty threshold, which depends on the household size and composition.

How many New Mexico residents are affected?

As of 2009—the most current year for which data are available:

- The income of half of households in New Mexico (the median income) was less than \$43,028, a 1.1% decline in household income from 2008.
- New Mexico households in the highest income quintile (top 20%), with a mean income of \$140,068, earned 48.8% of all money income. Households in the lowest income quintile, with a mean income of \$9,906, earned 3.5% of all income.
- Approximately one out of 13 New Mexico residents—representing 147,000 ($\pm 11,000$) individuals—were living in severe poverty (with incomes below 50% of the federal poverty threshold).
- Besides those in poverty, more than one in five or 22.3% ($\pm 1.2\%$) New Mexico residents—representing 440,000 ($\pm 23,000$) individuals—were living near poverty (with incomes between 100% and 200% of the poverty threshold).



THE PROJECT ON SOCIETAL DISTRESS is an initiative of the Virginia Commonwealth University Center on Human Needs, which examines the prevalence of societal distress in five domains—food security, housing, health, education, and income—and makes the information available to the public and policymakers. This research effort focuses on presenting accurate data on the number of Americans affected by these conditions and not examining the causes or proposing solutions. The Project on Societal Distress is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

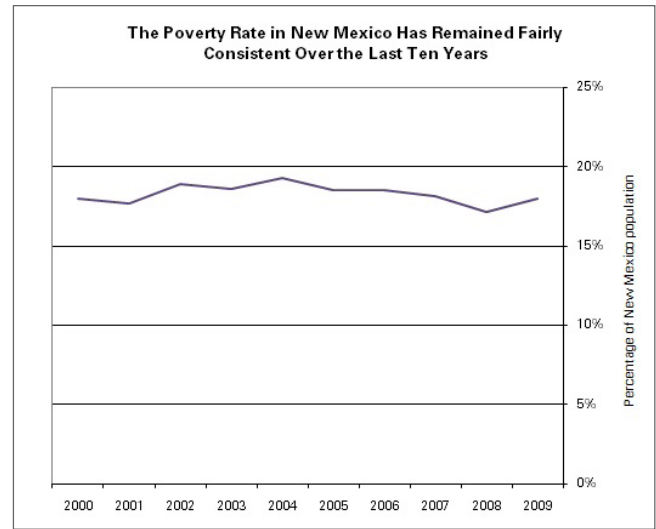
In New Mexico in 2009, approximately half of all Hispanics lived in poverty or near poverty.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Insufficient income to meet basic needs, low net worth, and inadequate savings intensifies material hardship, stress, and poor health. It limits opportunities for advancement by individuals, children, and families and limits in aggregate to the well-being of communities, consumer spending, and economic growth.

What are the trends?

The poverty rate in New Mexico has been stable over the past decade but began to rise after 2008.



Who is affected?

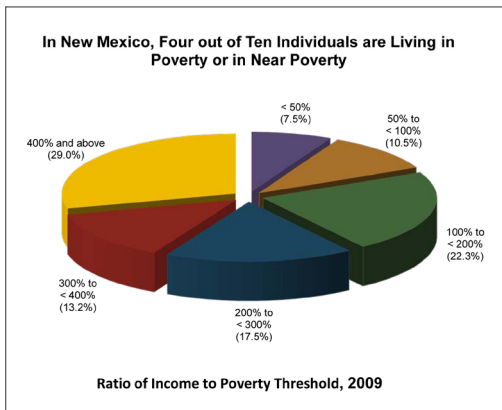
As of 2009—the most current year for which data are available:

Females: Among full-time, year-long workers in New Mexico, women earned 77.5% of the median annual earnings of men.

Young Adults: The highest poverty rate among New Mexico adults of 25.9% ($\pm 2.4\%$) occurred among those ages 18 to 24.

Minorities: The median income for Hispanics was \$36,282 compared to \$51,405 for non-Hispanic whites.

Households with Less Education: Among New Mexico adults age 25 and older, the poverty rate was 29.3% ($\pm 2.7\%$) for those without a high school education, compared with 5.4% ($\pm 0.9\%$) for those with a bachelor's degree or higher.



SOURCES AND METHODS

The statistics reported here were obtained from U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey One Year Estimates, 2009* and the *ACS 2009 Public Use Microdata Sample*. The data underwent statistical analysis by the research staff of the Virginia Commonwealth University Center on Human Needs. Analytic methods are detailed at www.societaldistress.org.

THE VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY CENTER ON HUMAN NEEDS (www.humanneeds.vcu.edu) was chartered in 2007 to provide the public and policymakers with information about the prevalence of societal distress in the United States. Its mission is to document how many Americans confront food insecurity, precarious housing or homelessness, inadequate health and health care, inferior education, and inadequate income/poverty.

For more details, visit www.societaldistress.org.