

The Status of Children in New Mexico

The Impact of Racism on Health



By James Jimenez

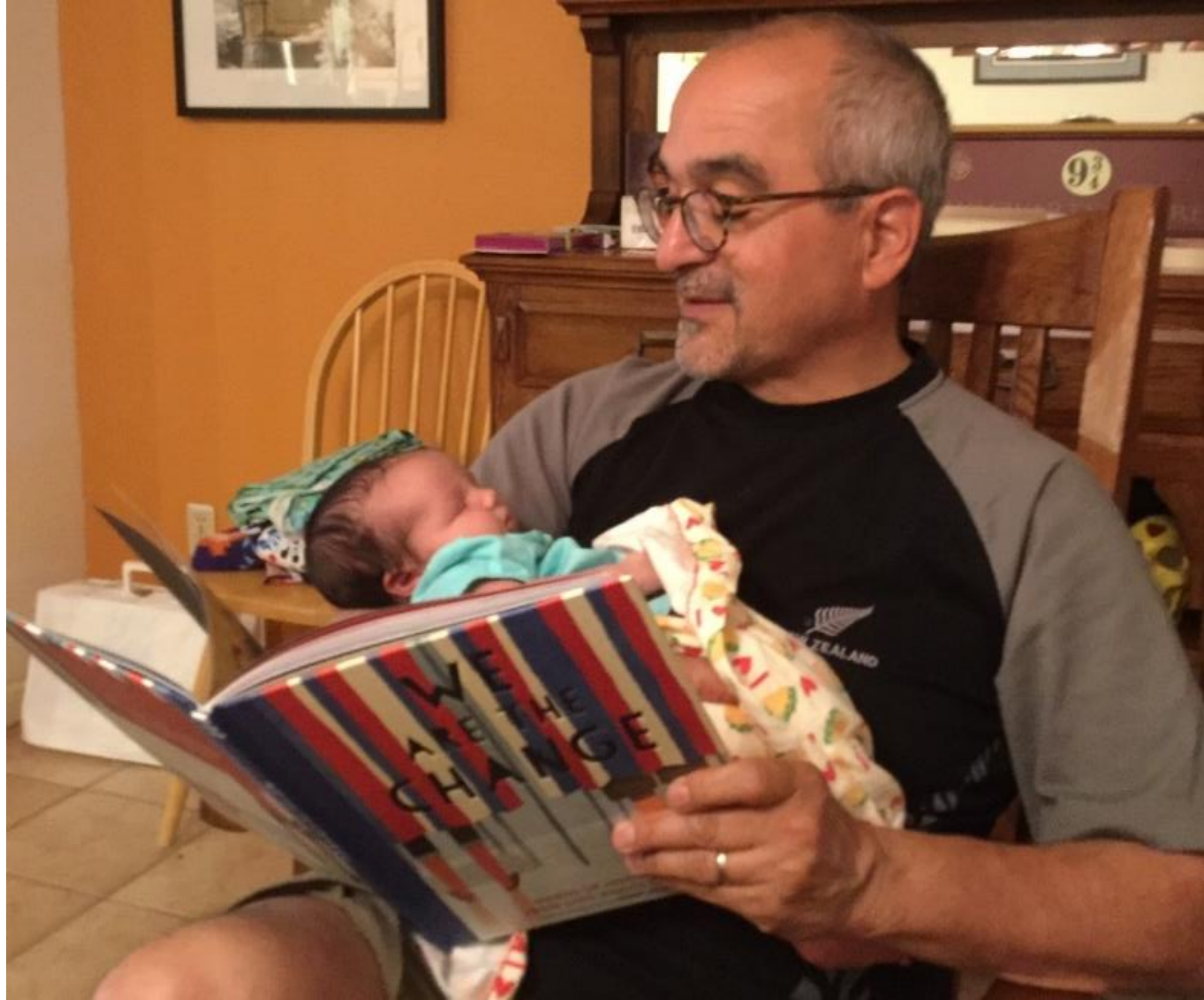
Executive Director

New Mexico Voices for Children

Call to Action: Children at the Center (Health Care Reform in New Mexico)

August 22, 2019

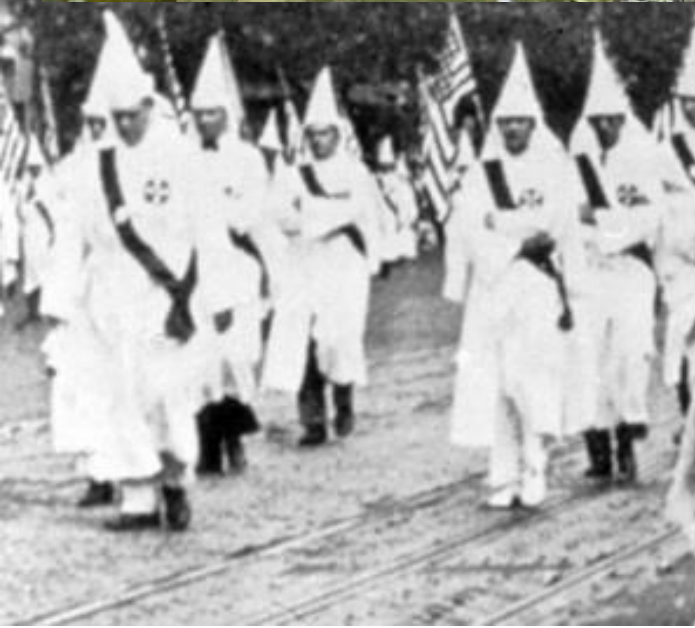




The Good News

- Just 5% of our kids lack health insurance
- NM ranks best in the nation in reducing the rate of women of childbearing age who lack insurance
- Our teen birth rate has fallen:
 - 2010: **64** per 1,000 female teens (ages 15-19)
 - 2017: **28** per 1,000 female teens (ages 15-19)

Racism and Health



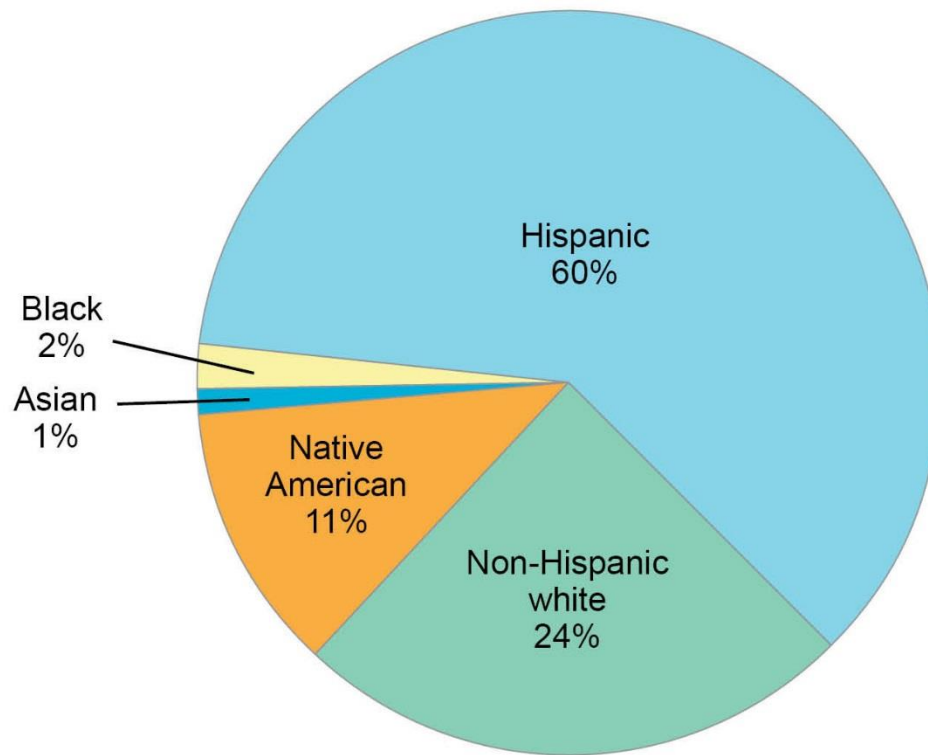
American Academy of Pediatrics Report

- Racism is a core social determinant of health and is a driver of health inequities.
- Racial abuse that is repetitive causes stress levels to increase in anticipation of future events.
- Strong racial or ethnic identity and parental engagement are protective factors.

Racism has an Outsized Impact in New Mexico

Children of color make up the majority of New Mexico's child population

Child population (ages 0-19) by race/ethnicity (2017)



A close-up photograph of a person's hand, likely a child, gripping a chain-link fence. The hand is positioned in the center-left of the frame, with fingers wrapped around the metal links. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and a light-colored wall. The overall tone is somber and evocative.

Criminal Justice

**12% of NM
kids have a
parent who
has been
incarcerated**

Public Education

**Expulsion rates
by race in New
Mexico** (per 10,000
students) (2013-14)

Non-Hispanic white	36
Hispanic	69
Black	124

Health Care

**New Mexico
women receiving
no prenatal care
by race/ethnicity
(2017)**

Non-Hispanic white	2.5%
Hispanic	4.6%
Native American	5.6%



Policy Solutions

- Banned solitary confinement for youth
- Enacted “ban the box” legislation
- Increased the College Affordability Fund awards
- Enabled the creation of dental therapists
- Raised the state minimum wage
- Increased the Working Families Tax Credit
- Creation of the early education department



“We are either moving towards equity or away from equity; there is no neutral.”

-Glenn Harris
President, Race Forward



Our Anti-racism Work

- Both internal and external
- Blog series: “Advancing Equity in New Mexico”
- Race Matters Institute
- Internal staff-led discussions
- Work with partner organizations across the nation



Thank you!

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