

Failing State: How New Mexico Ranks				
		Version 2.3, November 8, 2025		
Metric	Rank	Source	Date	D.C. included?
Overall				
Worst State to Live In	#50	Worst State to Live In	11-Aug-25	no
Child well-being in New Mexico	#50	2025 Kids Count Data Book	10-06-25	yes
"Best State"	#49	U.S. News	December, 2024	
Quality of life	#30	World Population Review	2024	
Quality of life	#45	WalletHub	January, 2024	
Quality of life	#48	Data Pandas	2024	
Crime				
America's most dangerous cities	#4	Ranked: America's Most Dangerous Cities, According to Citizens	11-Oct-25	yes
Most police killings in U.S. - NM & ABQ	#1	Mapping Police Violence	2024	yes
Crime Rate	#1	Data Pandas	2024	
Crime Rate	#2	World Population Review	2024	yes
Most Dangerous State	#1	U.S. News	November, 2024	yes
Burglary	#1	CEPro	September, 2024	
Violent Crime Rate	#3	World Population Review	2024	yes
Non-Violent Crime Rate	#3	World Population Review	2024	yes
Homicides	#5	Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)	2022	yes
Drug Problems				
Most Drug Use in the U.S.	#1	WalletHub	30-04-25	yes
Worst Drug Use and Addiction	#1	WalletHub	May, 2024	yes
Adults with unmet drug treatment needs	#2	WalletHub	May, 2024	yes
Teen Drug Users	#1	WalletHub	May, 2024	yes
Teens trying marijuana before age 13	#1	WalletHub	May, 2024	yes
Overdose death rate	#8	Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)	2022	yes
Drug Trafficking	#5	United State Sentencing Commission	2016	
Health, Mental Health				
Suicide	#4	Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)	2022	yes
Adults with substance use disorder	#49	Mental Health America	2024	yes
Adults with serious thoughts of suicide	#38	Mental Health America	2024	yes
Youth with substance use disorder	#51	Mental Health America	2024	yes
Youth overall mental health	#45	Mental Health America	2024	yes
Healthcare	#43	America's Health Rankings	2023	yes
Healthcare Access	#41	U.S. News	2024	
Healthcare Quality	#34	U.S. News	2024	
Public Health	#37	U.S. News	2024	

Sexually Transmitted Diseases	#10	Data Pandas	2024	
Congenital syphilis rate	#1	Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)	2022	
Congenital syphilis rate	#2	Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)	2024	
Primary/secondary syphilis rate	#2	Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)	2022	
Primary/secondary syphilis rate	#2	Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)	2024	
Chlamydia rate	#9	Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)	2024	
State health system performance	#31	Commonwealth	June, 2023	yes
COVID-19 Mortality by State	#6	Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)	Year 2022	yes
Children, Youth, Families, Education				
Child maltreatment		LegisStat, Child Maltreatment, Jun 2025	2025	
Overall Childhood Well-being	#50	Annie E. Casey Foundation	2022, 2024	
Economic well-being [of children]	#48	Annie E. Casey Foundation	2024	
Health [of children]	#44	Annie E. Casey Foundation	2024	
Family and Community	#49	Annie E. Casey Foundation	2024	
Adverse Child Experiences	#1	New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH)	Oct. 11, 2022	
Youth with at Least One Major Depressive Episode (MDE) in the Past Year	#46	Mental Health America	2024	
Youth with Serious Thoughts of Suicide	#13	Mental Health America	2024	
Youth (Ages 6-17)	#4	Mental Health America	2024	
Youth with MDE Who Did Not Receive Mental Health Services	#48	Mental Health America	2024	
Youth with Private Insurance That Did Not Cover Mental or Emotional Problems	#14	Mental Health America	2024	
Students (K+) Identified with Emotional Disturbance for an Individualized Education Program	#28	Mental Health America	2022	
% of Disconnected Youth	#5	WalletHub	2024	
% of Youth without a highschool diploma	#1	WalletHub	2024	
Overweight or Obese Young Adults	#4	WalletHub	2024	
Education	#50	Annie E. Casey Foundation	2024	
Population with Low Literacy	#1	World Population Review	2024	
NM last in math and reading	#51	National Assessment of Educational Progress	2024	yes
4th Graders Below Basic Reading Level	#1	World Population Review	2024	
High school graduation rate	#49	NM State Legislature's Legislative Finance Committee	2024	yes

At Risk Youth	#2	WalletHub	2024	
Worst state to raise a family	#1	WalletHub	2024	
Worst state to raise a family	#2	World Population Review	2024	
Education and Childcare	#50	World Population Review	2024	
Best State to Raise a Family	#49	Consumer Affairs, Journal of Consumer Research	2025 projected	yes
Safest State to raise a family	#51	Consumer Affairs, Journal of Consumer Research	2025 projected	yes
Most Underprivileged Children	#4	WalletHub	2024	
Children in Single-Parent Families	#4	WalletHub	2024	
% of Children in Households with Below- Poverty Income	#3	WalletHub	2024	
Marriage and relationships				
Best States for Singles	#42	WalletHub	January, 2024	
Share of Single Adults	#1	WalletHub	January, 2024	
Romance & Fun	#50	WalletHub	January, 2024	
Online-Dating Opportunities	#49	WalletHub	January, 2024	
Marriage Rate	#51	Census Bureau	2022	yes
Divorce Rate	#7	Census Bureau	2022	yes
Divorce Rate	#5	Wise Voter	2023	
Albuquerque divorce rate - national city rank	#1	U.S. Census Bureau / reported by KOBTV	2024	
Women's issues				
Mortality rate in women & behavioral health	#49-51	NM Legislative Finance Ctte report - Medicaid: Access to Healthcare and Evidence-Based Services	June, 2025	
Worst State to be a Woman	#12	Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security	2020	
Reproductive Care and Women's Health	#51	Commonwealth Fund	2023	
Women's Health and Reproductive Care	#42	Commonwealth Fund	July, 2024	
Health Care Quality and Prevention for Women	#46	Commonwealth Fund	July, 2024	
Health Coverage, Access, and Affordability for Women	#34	Commonwealth Fund	2024	
Health of Women and Children	#40	America's Health Rankings	2024	
Senior issues				
The Golden Years are going gray in rapidly aging New Mexico		The Golden Years are going gray in rapidly aging New Mexico	2025	
Increases in the Drug Death Rate Between 2017- 2019 and 2020-2022 for Seniors	#48	America's Health Rankings Senior Report (one of the highest increases nationwide)	2024	yes

65+ drug deaths	#45	America's Health Rankings Senior Report (one of the worst rankings nationwide)	2024	
Risk of social isolation for ages 65+	#48	America's Health Rankings Senior Report (one of the worst rankings nationwide)	2024	no
Poverty - Age 65+	#46	America's Health Rankings	2022	
Retirement	#31	WalletHub	2024	
Economics and Poverty				
Most dependent on food stamps		Mapped: The States Most Dependent On Food Stamps	2025	
States Dependent on the Federal Government	#1	U.S. States Most Dependent on the Federal Government	2024	yes
Highest Poverty Rate	#1	NM State Legislature's Legislative Finance Committee	2022	
Poorest State	#3	Data Pandas	2024	
Poorest State	#6	World Population Review	2024	
Child Poverty Rate	#3	U.S. Census Bureau, reported by USA Facts	2023	
States With The Highest Rent Increases	#10	Zillow, RubyHome, reported by yahoo.com	2023	
Median Annual Household Income	#48	WalletHub	January, 2024	
Economy	#45	U.S. News (highest to lowest)		
Business Environment	#44	U.S. News (highest to lowest)		
Employment	#45	U.S. News (highest to lowest)		
[Economic] Growth	#40	U.S. News (highest to lowest)		
Business Growth Rate	#44	IBIS World	2024	
Non-residential Construction	#48	IBIS World	2024	
Residential Construction	#32	IBIS World	2024	
Building Permits	#49	IBIS World	2024	
Economic Outlook	#38	Rich States, Poor States	2024	
Economic Performance	#38	Rich States, Poor States	2024	
Roads and Drivers				
Most Distracted Drivers in U.S.	#1	WhistleOut	2024	yes
Riskiest Drivers in U.S.	#1	KRQE, Albuquerque	2024	
Worst Drivers in U.S.	#1	Forbes	2025	
Worst Drivers in U.S.	#2	Consumer Affairs, Journal of Consumer Research	2024	
Roads	#50	Jon Foy & Associates		
Fatalities Per 100 Million Miles Driven (VMT)	#3	Jon Foy & Associates		
Rural Rough (Poor and Very Poor) Road Percentage	#3	Jon Foy & Associates		
Miscellaneous				
Business rankings	#44	New Mexico ranks No. 44 on CNBC's top US states for business	2025	
Workplace deaths	#4	Report: NM fourth highest in more workplace deaths nationally	2023	yes
Internet coverage, speed and availability	#39	BroadbandNow		
Most Dangerous Workplaces	#14	Suzuki Law Offices & Bureau of Labor Statistics	2023	yes
Air Quality	#43	Data Pandas	2024	

Tap Water Quality	#39	Data Pandas	2024
-------------------	-----	-----------------------------	------