

## NEWBORNS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PATERNITY

Very often we see analyses of birth data that point out a large and growing number of single mothers in our nation or our local communities. The data presented here, in contrast, are meant to illustrate New Mexico trends by county for fathers who are absent in the early child rearing process.

The data in the two attached tables represent those children born to mothers of any age who are not married and for whom the father has not filed an “acknowledgement of paternity” at the time of the closing of the yearly file with the New Mexico Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics. The numbers are represented as proportions (%) of all Hispanic and Non-Hispanic children born in New Mexico during the period 2000-2005. The terms ‘Hispanic’ and ‘Non-Hispanic’ refer to ethnicity only, and may include children of any race.

Although this is not a 100% accurate method for capturing the percent of children for whom there is no participatory father, it does serve as a proxy. The number of fathers actually participating in the rearing process of the child may differ for many reasons: biological fathers with an acknowledged paternity could be absent; fathers without acknowledgement could be active in the child’s nurturing without having ever officially documented their paternity; a non-biologically related male could be serving as the father figure; or male family members could be fulfilling the role of father.

Nonetheless, the direction of the overall trends presented here are assumed to be representative of the actual trends in the participation of fathers in the lives of their newborn children. For example, counties with higher or increasing rates of children without “acknowledgement of paternity” would be expected to also have higher or increasing rates of kids without a father figure present.

*More information about paternity and single mothers can be found in the [New Mexico Selected Health Statistics Annual Report, 2004](#), pp 49 and 205.*

*More information about how the State of New Mexico enforces child support can be found at [New Mexico Human Services Department, Child Support Enforcement Division](#)*

*See also the [Office of Child Support Enforcement](#) of the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families.*

*The [National Center On Children In Poverty](#) has prepared a report on this issue with a list of national resources for encouraging responsible fatherhood.*

Thomas N. Scharmen, M.A., M.P.H., Epidemiologist  
Office of Community Assessment, Planning and Evaluation  
Region 1-3, Public Health Division, New Mexico Department of Health  
North Valley Public Health Office  
7704-A 2nd St, NW Albuquerque, NM 87107  
Telephone: 897-5700 ext 126; Fax: 897-1010  
E-mail: [thomas.scharmen@state.nm.us](mailto:thomas.scharmen@state.nm.us)

September 2006

## Hispanic Babies and Acknowledgement of Paternity, 2000 to 2004

NM County	5-year Average of Total Hispanic Births	Percent of Hispanic Newborns Born to Single Mothers and without Acknowledgement of Paternity					
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	5-yr
Bernalillo	5356	19.9%	19.8%	19.0%	19.8%	17.7%	19.2%
Catron	7	33.3%*	0%*	0%*	40%*	11.1%*	11.8%
Chaves	658	23.5%	24.2%	26.0%	21.4%	23.6%	23.7%
Cibola	164	11.8%	21.1%	16.7%	17.7%	13.2%	16.2%
Colfax	111	11.5%	15.4%	17.9%	17.1%	18.8%	16.2%
Curry	398	29.7%	32.1%	29.0%	25.8%	26.2%	28.5%
De Baca	12	33.3%*	23.1%*	40%*	36.4%*	38.5%*	33.9%
Dona Ana	2597	37.2%	26.7%	30.4%	33.3%	32.5%	32.0%
Eddy	430	21.3%	22.7%	23.9%	22.8%	23.0%	22.8%
Grant	266	20.7%	22.2%	25.3%	23.0%	26.6%	23.4%
Guadalupe	53	28.6%	25.0%	23.0%	17.5%	43.8%	27.7%
Harding	1	50%*		0%*	0%*	0%*	14.3%*
Hidalgo	50	16.7%	26.4%	23.1%	28.6%	18.0%	22.0%
Lea	569	28.7%	26.4%	25.0%	27.2%	25.0%	26.4%
Lincoln	115	13.9%	13.5%	11.5%	16.1%	9.5%	12.8%
Los Alamos	37	0.0%	4.1%	2.7%	5.7%	3.2%	3.2%
Luna	332	27.3%	20.1%	24.9%	25.2%	30.1%	25.6%
McKinley	205	15.4%	16.1%	13.5%	13.5%	17.6%	15.2%
Mora	44	12.2%	19.6%	14.0%	18.9%	9.1%	14.6%
Otero	301	14.0%	13.6%	14.6%	17.4%	16.3%	15.2%
Quay	67	24.6%	6.8%	19.3%	12.9%	24.0%	17.6%
Rio Arriba	547	16.9%	19.3%	15.7%	13.9%	15.3%	16.2%
Roosevelt	167	27.9%	25.5%	28.4%	17.2%	20.4%	23.9%
San Juan	489	15.8%	17.5%	19.1%	16.7%	17.2%	17.3%
San Miguel	340	23.1%	19.6%	24.0%	29.0%	24.1%	23.9%
Sandoval	559	14.5%	12.7%	13.7%	13.7%	13.0%	13.5%
Santa Fe	1117	19.0%	19.3%	21.4%	19.1%	18.8%	19.5%
Sierra	60	23.5%	10.5%	14.9%	19.7%	25.7%	19.3%
Socorro	149	21.5%	23.5%	22.5%	25.5%	17.0%	21.8%
Taos	253	16.7%	18.3%	16.1%	17.0%	12.7%	16.2%
Torrance	106	20.6%	21.6%	15.6%	16.7%	18.7%	18.7%
Union	23	24.0%	20.0%	14.3%	6.7%	9.5%	14.5%
Valencia	702	19.0%	19.5%	16.8%	20.0%	18.4%	18.8%
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>	<b>16288</b>	<b>22.7%</b>	<b>21.0%</b>	<b>21.6%</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>21.3%</b>	<b>21.7%</b>

Data source: NMDOH Vital Records and Health Statistics; Analysis by T Scharmen & E Hendrickson

\*Percents based on fewer than 20 events may be statistically unreliable

Note: Percentages for each time period are calculated by dividing the number of non-Hispanic newborns of any race who are born to single mothers without an acknowledgment of paternity (numerator) by the total number of non-Hispanic newborns of any race (denominator).

## Non-Hispanic Babies and Acknowledgement of Paternity, 2000 to 2004

NM County	5-year Average of Total Non-Hispanic Births	Percent of Non-Hispanic Newborns Born to Single Mothers without Acknowledgement of Paternity					
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	5-yr
Bernalillo	3272	16.0%	16.7%	16.4%	16.0%	14.9%	16.0%
Catron	16	21.4%*	5.6%*	6.7%*	20%*	21.1%*	14.8%
Chaves	281	19.5%	21.1%	17.8%	16.9%	24.0%	19.9%
Cibola	252	24.3%	22.8%	25.6%	27.3%	24.5%	24.8%
Colfax	52	19.3%	13.0%	13.6%	5.0%	15.7%	13.8%
Curry	440	17.0%	17.9%	15.3%	15.3%	14.7%	16.0%
De Baca	8	10%*	0%*	20%*	28.6%*	42.9%*	20.0%
Dona Ana	528	23.1%	15.1%	14.6%	19.5%	12.5%	17.1%
Eddy	310	19.0%	21.8%	14.9%	21.1%	21.4%	19.8%
Grant	111	13.3%	20.0%	20.0%	24.7%	21.0%	19.6%
Guadalupe	4	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	20%*	4.8%
Harding	2	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*	0%*
Hidalgo	18	9.1%	17.6%	18.2%	17.4%	11.1%	15.4%
Lea	344	34.3%	28.3%	28.1%	28.8%	23.9%	28.8%
Lincoln	104	18.0%	9.0%	15.2%	20.4%	13.1%	15.2%
Los Alamos	152	8.7%	5.0%	1.8%	0.7%	3.5%	3.9%
Luna	68	24.2%	19.4%	29.0%	27.1%	27.1%	25.4%
McKinley	1146	27.0%	28.7%	26.2%	27.4%	28.9%	27.7%
Mora	5	25%*	50%*	33.3%*	16.7%*	0%*	26.1%
Otero	559	12.2%	10.3%	13.5%	13.7%	12.9%	12.5%
Quay	42	14.6%	12.5%	18.8%	17.1%	15.8%	15.9%
Rio Arriba	138	17.9%	27.2%	14.6%	23.0%	23.7%	21.1%
Roosevelt	141	12.5%	16.0%	17.1%	15.3%	17.8%	15.9%
San Juan	1484	21.7%	21.6%	22.2%	22.0%	21.2%	21.8%
San Miguel	35	20.0%	28.1%	22.0%	9.7%	23.8%	21.0%
Sandoval	719	18.3%	17.6%	19.6%	19.1%	19.2%	18.8%
Santa Fe	489	12.4%	12.5%	13.2%	13.0%	12.4%	12.7%
Sierra	49	34.7%	33.3%	21.8%	25.6%	18.8%	26.7%
Socorro	91	29.2%	27.5%	26.8%	32.5%	26.0%	28.4%
Taos	114	17.3%	22.8%	13.3%	26.0%	12.7%	18.6%
Torrance	83	20.9%	18.0%	17.5%	18.8%	21.3%	19.4%
Union	21	15.4%*	0.0%	7.7%	4.2%	15.0%	7.5%
Valencia	268	19.5%	20.5%	18.8%	23.1%	24.5%	21.2%
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>	<b>11346</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>18.5%</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>18.4%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>

Data source: NMDOH Vital Records and Health Statistics; Analysis by T Scharmen & E Hendrickson

\*Percents based on fewer than 20 events may be statistically unreliable

Note: Percentages for each time period are calculated by dividing the number of non-Hispanic newborns of any race who are born to single mothers without an acknowledgment of paternity (numerator) by the total number of non-Hispanic newborns of any race (denominator).

## PARENTS OF SMALL CHILDREN - HOW MANY DADS ARE MISSING?

