

## About

The Section for Child Safety and Well-Being in the University of New Mexico Department of Pediatrics provides holistic clinical services to children and families with maltreatment concerns; local and regional education to grow the state's workforce to address family violence; and prevention and advocacy programs to strengthen New Mexico families and communities.

## Clinical and Family Support Services:

- Trauma-informed health services to children of all ages with concerns for abuse or neglect, and to children living in out-of-home care
- Therapy for children with problem sexual behaviors
- Adolescent counseling about safe, healthy relationships
- Family crisis intervention
- Teen sexual assault support group (Segura Y Fuerte)
- Family case management and protection services

## Education

We are building the New Mexico workforce to address the problem of child maltreatment through multiple educational programs for both health professions learners and non-medical professionals. In 2023, the Section created a fellowship program to develop New Mexico's next generation of child abuse pediatricians. The ACGME-accredited fellowship is a 3-year program that prepares fellows for careers focused on preventing and treating family violence, neglect and exploitation. The Section also leads a regional telehealth child maltreatment education program, SafeCare New Mexico, that attracts professionals from across New Mexico and neighboring states.

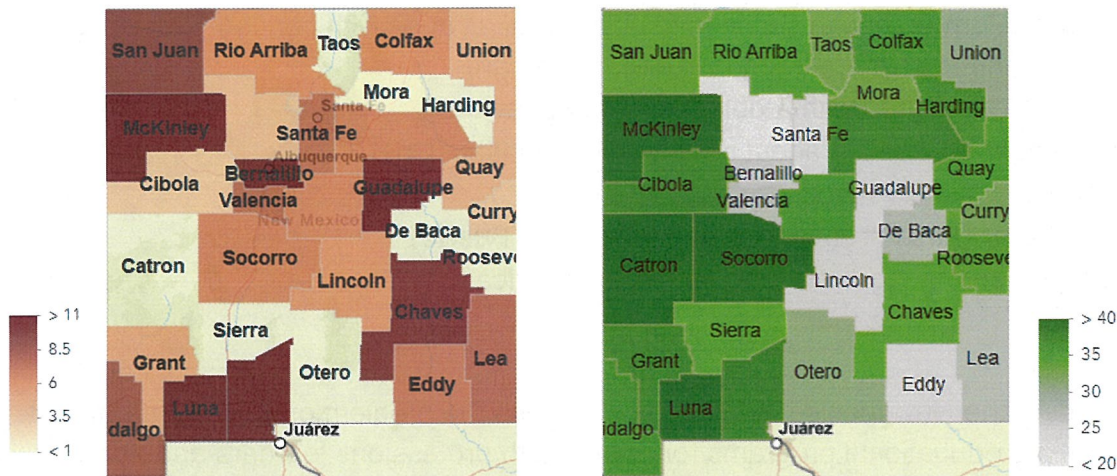
## Prevention and Advocacy

The Section is leading state efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect, to raise public awareness, and to promote healing of children and families who have experienced violence. Projects include the UNM Child Health Grand Challenge, whose charge is to *formulate a systematic approach to preventing child maltreatment in New Mexico*. The team includes academics from multiple medical and non-medical disciplines, community providers, and state agency stakeholders, working together to study and implement proven prevention programs, and improve the lives of children and families.

For more information, please visit: [Child Safety and Well-Being | School of Medicine \(unm.edu\)](https://unm.edu)

### An Ongoing Problem

- New Mexico has high rates of child maltreatment and child maltreatment fatalities compared to the rest of the US (*US HHS*).
- When measured by proven risk and protective factors for child maltreatment, New Mexico ranks 49<sup>th</sup>- 50<sup>th</sup> among US states (*Annie E. Casey*).
- While maltreatment can occur in any home, minority and marginalized children are disproportionately affected.



2020 Domestic Violence Rate per 1000 population (left, brown) and Percent of Persons Living Below 150% Poverty Level (right, green), research maps developed by the UNM Child Health Grand Challenge Team

### The Good News

- Preventing child maltreatment can prevent other forms of violence, including youth violence, domestic violence, sexual violence, self-harm and suicide.
- New Mexico supports several programs that have been proven to prevent child maltreatment, including home visiting programs, positive parenting programs, and preschool enrichment programs with family engagement.

### The Challenge

Currently available data on child maltreatment and risk and protective factors in New Mexico is incomplete, making it challenging to measure the impact of prevention programs.

The UNM Section and Child Safety and Well-Being and the UNM Child Health Grand Challenge are addressing the gaps in data on child maltreatment and risk and protective factors in New Mexico, in order to improve the lives of New Mexican children and families.

For more information, please visit: [Child Safety and Well-Being | School of Medicine \(unm.edu\)](https://www.unm.edu/child-safety-and-well-being)