

Reclaim Las Cruces, New Mexico from Poverty and Hunger

New Mexico ranks #1 in food insecurity. Dona Ana County is the hungriest county in the nation. New Mexico, says the 2000 U.S. Census, ranks at the bottom of the pile of all states on every important quality of life standard.

- Last in quality of education
- Last in social health services
- Last in per capita personal income; \$17,261
- Near last (44th) in drunk driving deaths
- Leads the pack in poverty; 27.5% of children below poverty level; 18.4% households below poverty line
- 27.8 percent of its Hispanic & 46% of Native Indian population live below poverty line
- Leads nation in most homicides (per capita)
- Leads in illegitimate births
- Leads in most rape victims under 18 (20% are under 6 years of age!)
- Leads nation in homes without telephones; nearly 6 percent without phones
- 6th among all states in child abuse
- 25% of New Mexico's population age 25 and older lacks a high school diploma or GED
- 21% of adults in New Mexico age 25 and older read at the 5th grade level or below
- 46% of New Mexicans have literacy skills in the two lowest levels of the National Adult Literacy Survey
- Between 2001 and 2002, 30% of all high school diplomas awarded in New Mexico were GED's.

Las Cruces – Population 74,267

- 17.2% of families are below the poverty line; 26.5% adults in Dona Ana; 34.5% of Dona Ana children are below poverty line
- Per capita income for the city is \$15,704. 23.3% of the population
- 18% of Las Cruceans cannot read at the 9th grade level; % of adults with less than a 9th grade education: 18.2%
- 35% of the households make under \$20,000 per year.
- Nearly half the population (49%) earns under \$30,000
- Males have a median income of \$30,923 versus \$21,759 for females.
- Median income for a household in the city is \$30,375
- Median income for a family is \$37,670.
- 15.1% of the households have a female householder; no husband present
- 42% of all occupied dwelling units are renter occupied.
- 8.9% have someone living alone who is 65 years of age or older.

Is it any wonder that most people in Las Cruces have not read the U.S.A. PATRIOT act; do not have time to vote; Are easily co-opted by Bush propoganda?

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