

## New Mexico Rises in Mental Health Rankings

**Santa Fe, N.M.** — New Mexico Human Services Department Cabinet Secretary Brent Earnest announced today New Mexico has once again improved in Mental Health America’s “The State of Mental Health in America 2018” report. Since 2015, New Mexico has improved from 46th to 21st in the overall category.

“One of our priorities is to continue working with our partners to improve the state’s behavioral health system,” Earnest said. “And we’re seeing results from our work. Putting the patient first and more effectively coordinating care is essential to improving outcomes. Our Medicaid Centennial Care program and our Behavioral Health Services Division are working closely with providers to improve access, outcomes, and payment – all with the patient and consumer at the center.”

According to the report, for the fourth year in a row, Mental Health America released state rankings and New Mexico has shown improvement in several areas. This year, New Mexico is ranked 21<sup>st</sup> – up from 22<sup>nd</sup> last year. New Mexico also improved from 32nd to 25th in the adult category.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Overall	46	36	22	21
Adult	40	33	32	25
Access	27	24	23	23

Additionally, the report found New Mexico has one mental health provider for every 280 individuals, which means the state is ranked seventh in that category. The

State was also rated seventh in unmet need, which means New Mexico was one of the states with the least amount of citizens reporting barriers when seeking treatment.

Mental Health America's overall rankings are a combination of 15 measures, including the number of adults with mental illness, the number of youth with alcohol dependency and illicit drug use and the number of adults who did not receive treatment.

The full report is available [here](#).

###