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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 25, 2016

## New Report Shows New Mexico Continues to Strengthen Mental Health Care System

**Santa Fe, NM** – New Mexico Human Services Department Cabinet Secretary Brent Earnest announced today that New Mexico improved fourteen spots, from 36 to 22, in Mental Health America’s annual rankings, “The State of Mental Health in America 2017.” The state’s vastly improved overall rank shows a lower prevalence of mental illness and higher rates of access to care in New Mexico.

“The Human Services Department continues to strengthen our state’s behavioral health system as we prioritize providing care and treatment to the most vulnerable New Mexicans,” Earnest said. “Thanks to recent Centennial Care reforms, the Medicaid system identifies patients’ needs sooner and better connects them with the care they need.”

For the second year in a row, the state improved in all areas ranked: adult, youth, need and access. Mental Health America’s overall rankings are based on 15 different measures that include prevalence of behavioral health issues, access to care and mental health workforce availability.

	2015	2016	2017
<b>Overall</b>	46	36	22
<b>Adult</b>	40	33	32
<b>Youth</b>	50	40	16
<b>Need</b>	51	44	24
<b>Access</b>	27	24	23

In the latest rankings, New Mexico improved from 44 to 24 in prevalence of mental illness and from 24 to 23 in access to mental health care. Improved rankings in the adult (33 to 32) and youth (40 to 16) categories indicate a lower prevalence of mental illness and a higher rate of access to care for both age groups.

Additionally, more than 153,000 New Mexicans received mental health or substance abuse treatment in 2015 – more than ever before. This number represents an [increase](#) of 4 percent from 2014 and a 75 percent increase from 2013.

According to Mental Health America, it was founded in 1909 and is the nation's leading community-based nonprofit dedicated to helping Americans achieve wellness by living mentally healthier lives.

Find the full report and more information at [www.mentalhealthamerica.net/issues/state-mental-health-america](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/issues/state-mental-health-america).

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