

# **New Mexico High School Dropout Rate**

New Mexico Adventures in

Supercomputing Challenge

Final Report

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Team #61

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Executive Summary

The problem with New Mexico is that everyone in our High Schools are beginning to not care about their education and depend more on relationships and minor jobs. No one looks to a big dream anymore like the dreams that our parents pursued for themselves and their future. On top of that, so many high school (and even a great deal of Junior High and Elementary School) students have been spending their time drinking and doing drugs. For example, at a New Mexico Middle School, a group of people were caught drinking alcohol on campus. This is! a major problem because if the children keep this up, they could be the next group of New Mexico Dropouts. We do not want this to happen because ten to fifteen people could really affect the dropout rate.

New Mexico has its good times and its bad times, and sometimes, just like anywhere else, the bad times outnumber the good. The students are dropping out

so fast, they dont even try to enroll in another school, because, frankly, that would be too easy. Some students are so worried about if or if not their dealer had came up with the drugs they owed the student, that they dont even think twice about their schoolwork, they just drop everything for the drugs, alcohol, or the gang. Another problem with New Mexico is that kids are going out on Friday nights and all of the girls are coming home from the par! ties pregnant. There are all of these things that happen at school, but there is also the childs home life; some students are getting told that they are worthless, and in most situations, that is not the case.

We had a little bit of trouble when we first started putting together our project because of small group arguments and incidents like that. A while after we submitted our abstract, we lost a group member due to eligibility. I would have to say that we had the hardest time with our star logo programming. The reason as to why we had a hard time with our star logo program was because of the fact that all of the formulas and mathematical models were mind-boggling. The final report was rather easy because we already had all of our information regarding the dropout rate in New Mexico.

So, to make a long story short, New Mexicos high school students should really consider staying in school. They cant do it alone so the parents or guardians should discuss with the student as to why it is good to stay in school and that they are not worthless like everybody says. So if you are a New Mexico parent or student, dont drop out, and parents, try to be responsible and keep them from dropping out.

NEW MEXICO HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE

The severity of the dropout Problem in New Mexico is intensifying. New Mexico may still be the thirty-first state on the ranking list but we fear that if something isn't done about it soon, it may rise at a rather high rate. We chose this project because we felt a need to further investigate what the state has been concerned about for a number of years, and in actuality, it is a real world problem.

We have found out from numerous sources that the central reason as to why the dropout rate is so high is due to bullies, drugs and teenage pregnancies. Another reason would be that they have so many extra curricular activities that students do not make the grades and eligibility so they believe that they are insignificant and don't have reason to be in school. A present day law called the No child left behind act was written to try to prevent the pupils from feeling this way. It has not had completely effective results for the fact that the dropout rate has not been lowered drastically.

In the years of 1999-2000 the total number of students that enrolled in New Mexico High Schools (grades 9-12) is ninety-five thousand, nine hundred three. The total number of dropouts for this certain situation of years 1999-2000 is five thousand, seven hundred, and seventy-two which would leave ninety thousand, one-hundred and thirty-one students in New Mexico school facilities all around. This makes a problem for the community because that leaves about five thousand pupils that either dropped out or did not get their GED and/or high school diploma (General Education Diploma).

Many schools in New Mexico have continued and increased the counseling of their students that have dropout of their schools. This helps, although, it does not meet the extent of the needs. For example Bloomfield High School had fifty-eight students dropout in the years 2001-2002 which left about 7% of Bloomfield that dropped out this previous school year.

In our schools we have kids that don't have enough self-respect to stay in school. Then all interest of sports and other athletics leave the children's mind what one reason toward this is the fact that to succeed in sports the students must be able to keep a grade point average of two point zero. If they cannot maintain this grade they simply stop sports without any motivation to try and get back into their sports. Most children have no motivation for school along with any other activities.

The great problem that has surrounded us is invariably unpreventable. To us, there will not be a consequence until we begin to see our peers dropping out of school. Yet this is one issue that will continually affect our state and be an ongoing concern to educators statewide. Together we must seize the opportunity to help prevent the dropout rate from increasing through New Mexico. In fact, we need to implement measures to prevent students from the influences that continue to create a society of unproductive people.