

Comparison of Factors Influencing K-12 School Distribution and Outcomes In New Mexico



BACKGROUND

- New Mexico is one of America's most diverse, sparsely populated and poorest states
- It has a high school graduation rate of only 85.6%, ranking 45th in the US

OBJECTIVES

- The goal of this study was to see the distribution of K-12 schools in New Mexico and identify areas with more schools per student population.
- The study also reveals how graduation rate relates to school distribution, poverty, population density and race.

DATA

- University of New Mexico RGIS Data used for Addresses of K-12 Schools
- American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates - Household Poverty Rate, Persons per Square Mile, Demographic and Percent of Population Under 18

VARIABLES

- The GPS coordinates for the K-12 were taken from the RGIS data and mapped out
- After the number of schools was counted per county and was divided by the total population under 18

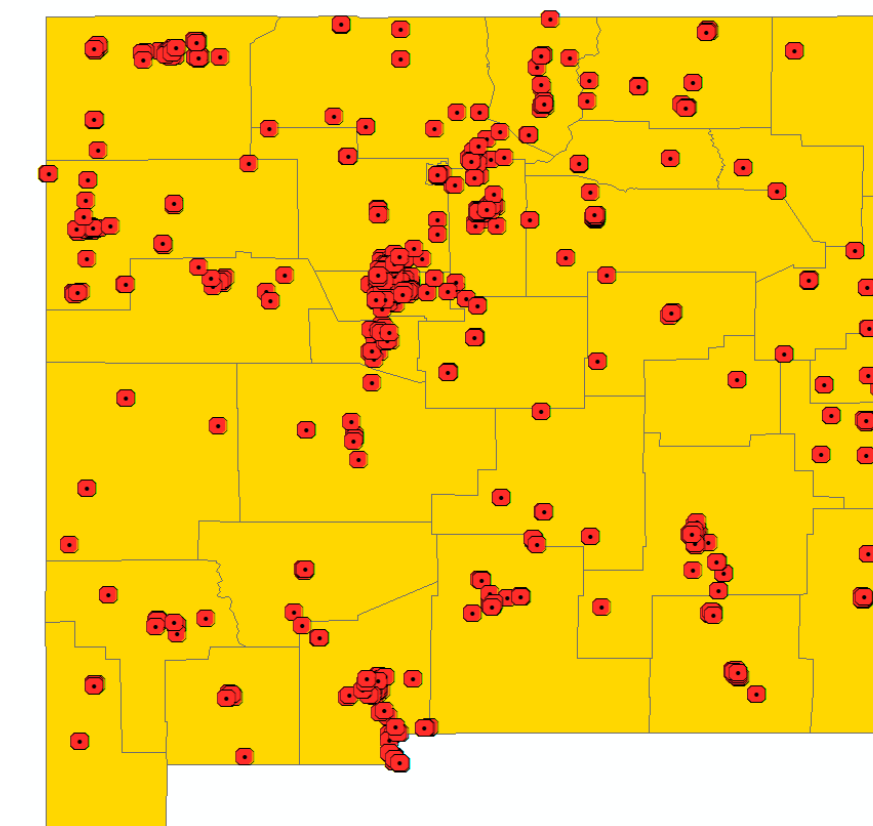
RESULTS

- Areas with higher population density and younger populations tended to have higher amount of people under-18 per K-12 school.
- There seems to be a slight correlation between graduation rate and areas with more schools per under-18 population
- Areas with higher poverty rate and higher percentage of non-white Hispanics tended to have lower graduation rate.

FURTHER STUDIES

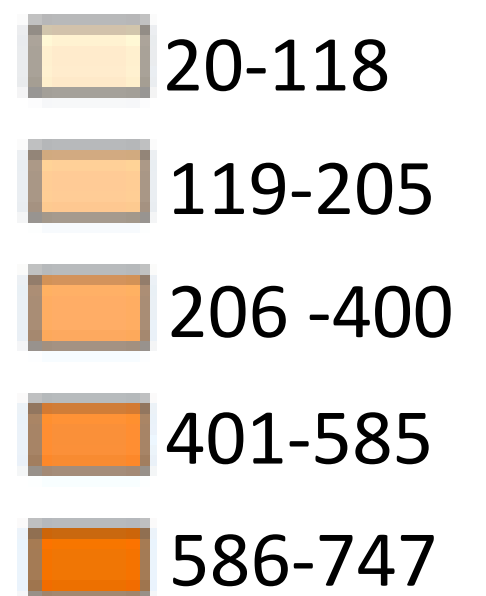
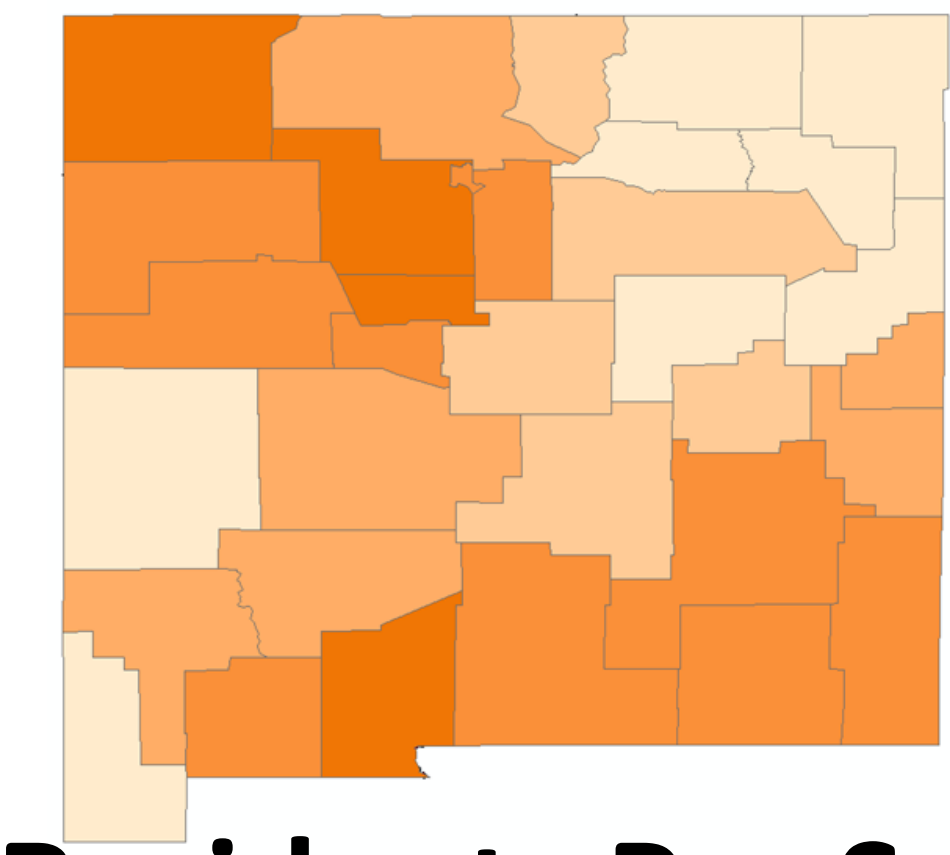
- Investigate the effects of school distribution on middle and high school test scores in more depth
- Research the effects of school size and outcomes with a focus on race, comparing Native, Hispanic, and white populations

Distribution of Schools

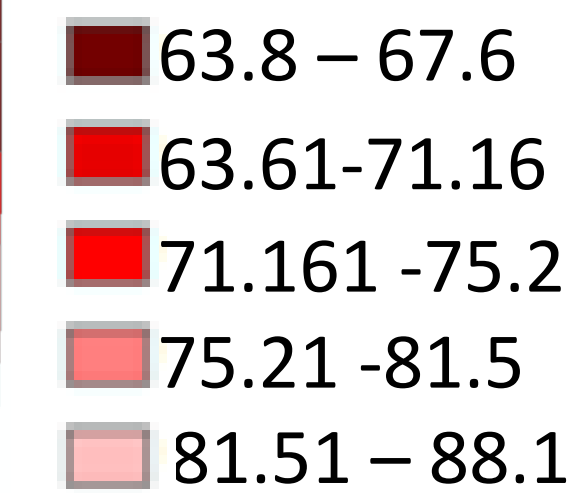
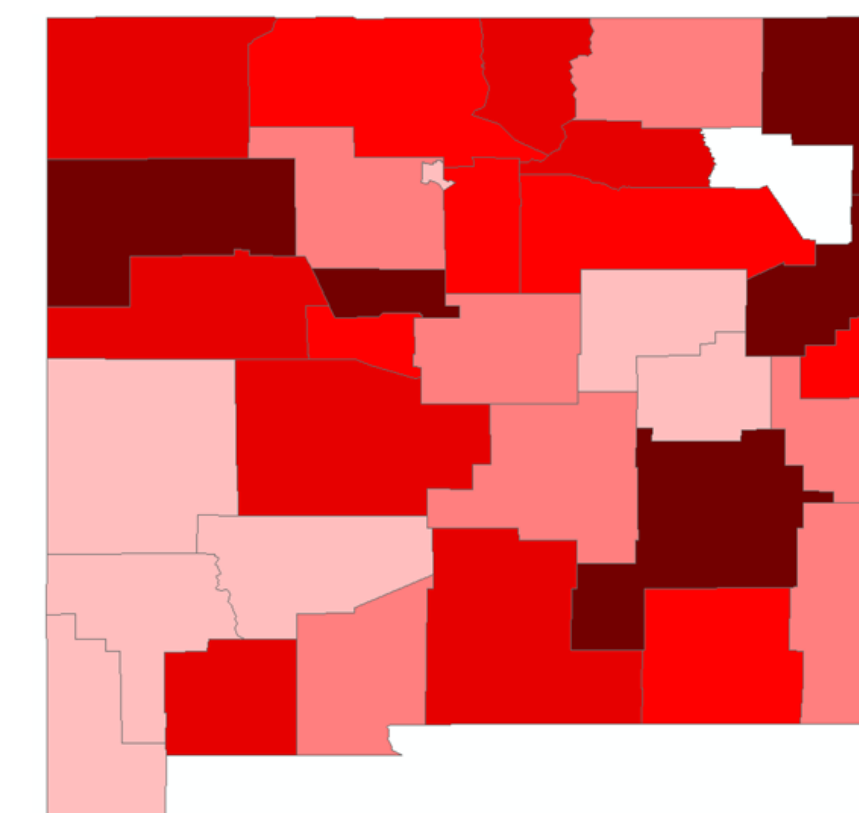


Location of a K-12 School

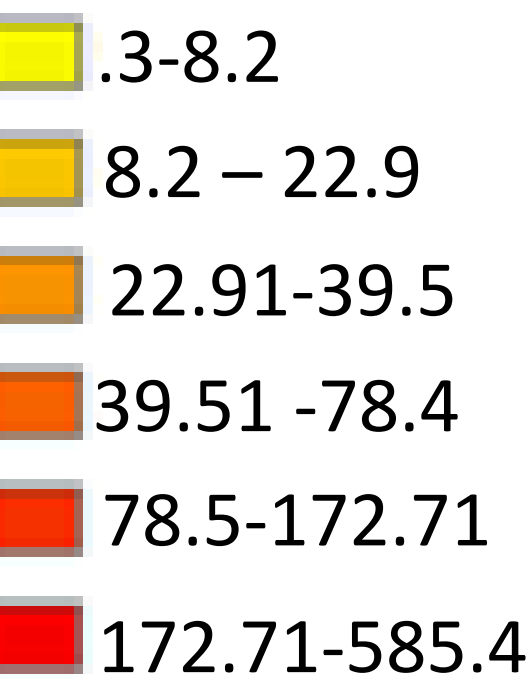
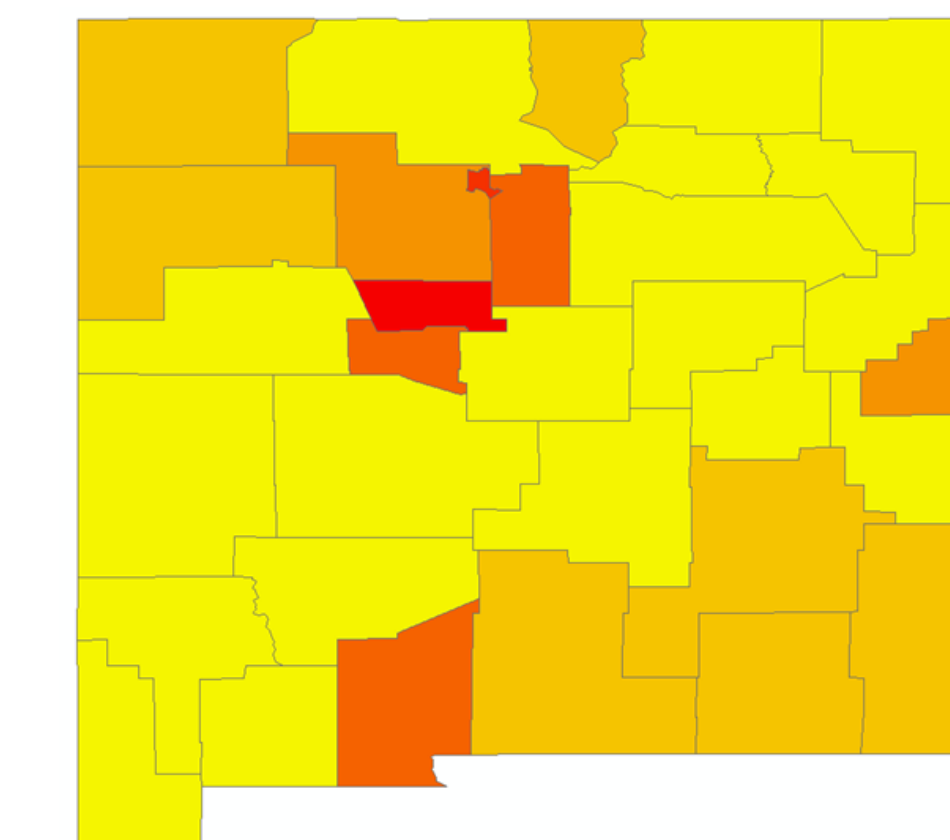
Population Under 18 Per K-12 School



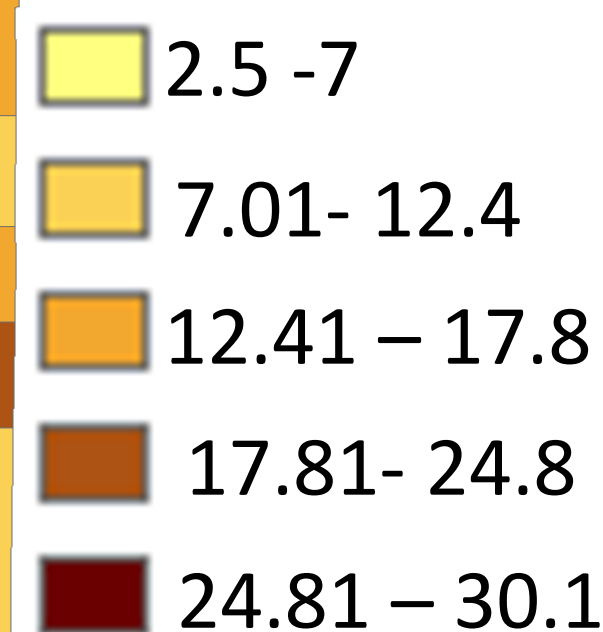
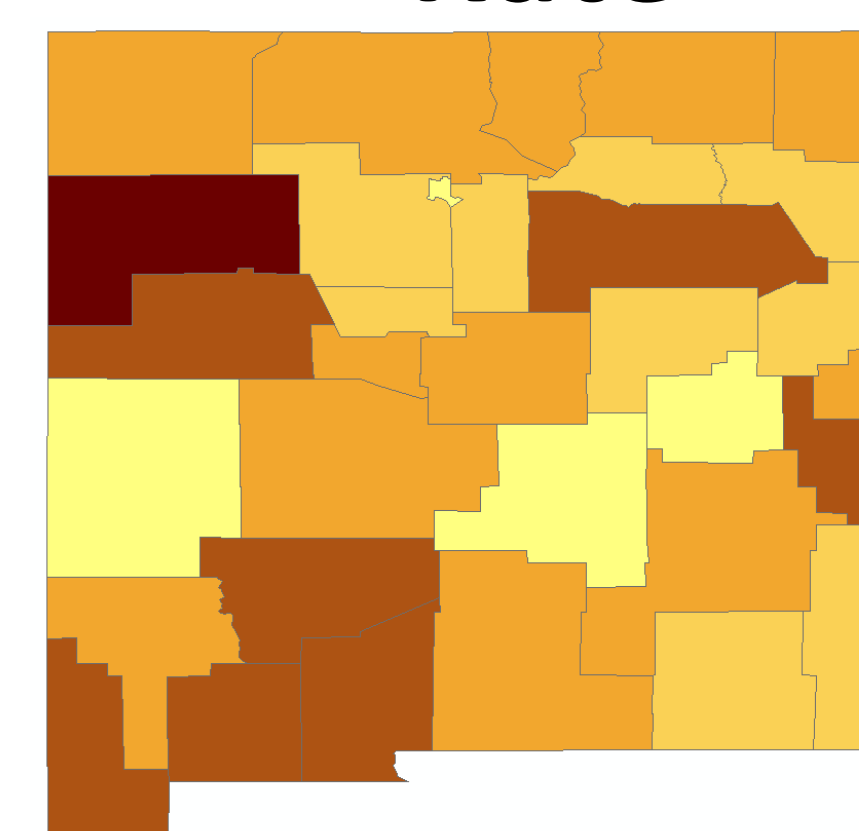
High School Graduation Rate



Residents Per Square Mile



Household Poverty Rate



Hispanic and Non-White Percentage of Population

