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# 20 Ways in 20 Days

## Way 5 Day

20 ways New Mexicans will be hurt by more budget cuts

**Potential Cut:** The state’s Human Services Department has said that more budget cuts may lead to the elimination of the Medicaid adult dental benefit.

**Potential Consequences:** This would leave approximately 134,000 New Mexico adults with no dental care coverage, even for preventive services.<sup>1</sup> Dental decay affects more than 90 percent of American adults.<sup>2</sup> When untreated, decay leads to oral disease, which is associated with heart disease, diabetes, pneumonia, stroke, and even death. Millions of dollars will end up being spent on emergency room visits for preventable severe oral disease and the associated complications.

**A Better Choice:** While some cuts are inevitable, we urge lawmakers to take a more balanced and fair approach by raising revenue as well.

Legislators have a clear choice: they can either cut funding for adult dental coverage or they can take a more balanced approach—one that doesn’t lay all the sacrifice on working families *and* that offers a sensible, long-term solution.

We urge them to make the *Better Choice for New Mexico*.

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**First things First, New Mexico. Tell our Legislature: *Don’t balance the budget on the backs of New Mexico’s working families.*** Instead, open the books on tax expenditures, close the loopholes for out-of-state corporations, and rollback the tax breaks for the wealthy.

Follow *Better Choices New Mexico* on facebook.com, twitter.com, and betterchoicesnewmexico.pbworks.com for more information about the group and specific revenue generators.

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<sup>1</sup> New Mexico Human Services Department

<sup>2</sup> National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. Dental Caries (Tooth Decay) in Adults (Age 20 to 64). <http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/DataStatistics/Find-DataByTopic/DentalCaries/DentalCariesAdults20to64.htm>



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