


# **The Bottom Line: Kids Count to NH's Economic Future**



*Prepared For*

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# Outline: Kids Count to NH's Future



- **How Are We Doing?**
  - High Kids Count Ranking v. indicators on which we fall short
  - Introducing a Summary Measure of Child Well Being
  - Disparities in Child Well Being Across the State
- **Why We Should Care**
  - Correlation of Child Well Being and Economic Well Being
  - Economic Model of Why Kids Count
- **Where do we go from here.....**
  - Focus on Early Learning



# **How Are We Doing?**

# **NH ranks well...we can be proud of our #1 status**



- **2001 Kids Count NH Ranked #1 .....improved from #2 in 2000**
- **NH is a very good place for some, but not all, families and children**

# NH falling short.....

- HS completion rate decreased from 84 to 73 percent during the economic boom
- HS graduates' likelihood of going on to post-secondary education low for state income level
- Percent of children living in single parent families increased by 44% from 1990-2000--- more than one in five children live in single parent families
- Children in poverty...11% increase in percentage of children living in poverty compared to no % increase in the US (over last 8 yrs)
- Only 10% of families with incomes under \$18K receive public support for child care *ranking NH among bottom half of states* in making low income families eligible for childcare assistance
- 12% of parents wanted-but could not afford- childcare

# The Child Potential Index (CPI)

*Measuring the economic impacts of child well-being requires a concise measure of well-being*

- Teens births as a % of all births
- % of mothers who smoked during pregnancy
- % of births to single mothers
- % births to mothers with less than 12 years edu.
- % of children receiving free or reduced lunch
- % births to mothers not receiving prenatal care
- Unemployment rate (research shows that job loss by a parent is a significant stress factor for children)


## **The Child Potential Index correlates well with important variables (examples)**

- With NHEIAP 3rd grade language (accounts for 41% of variation in scores)
- With % of children in Medicaid/TANF/Food Stamps (accounting for 64% of variation)
- Population change '90-'99 (accounting for 30% of variation)
- Per Capita Income (accounting for 42% of variation)

# There are significant differences in the presence of child risk factors among communities

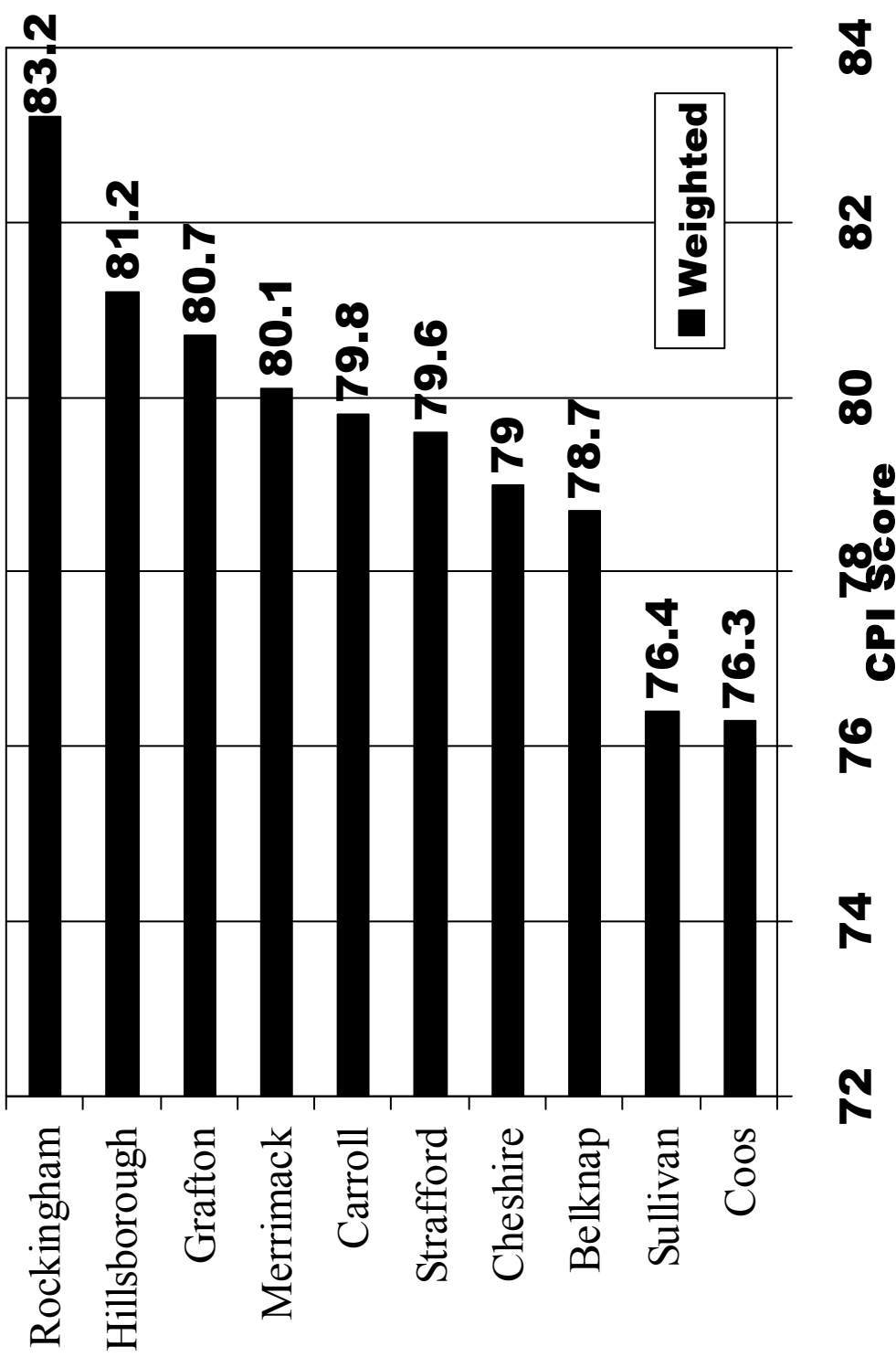
Top	Score	Bottom	Score
SOUTH HAMPTON	98.72	FRANKLIN	67.07
WATERVILLE	98.09	ERROL	68.62
HANOVER	98.03	STRA TFORD	70.46
EAST KINGSTON	97.69	WINCHESTER	75.06
SHARON	97.32	SUNAPEE	75.67
NEW CASTLE	97.23	CLAREMONT	76.30
BEDFORD	97.04	BARRINGTON	76.34
DURHAM	96.98	NEWPORT	76.46
LYME	96.89	FARMINGTON	77.56
HOLLIS	96.60	LACONIA	77.96
BROOKLINE	96.58	DALTON	78.11
PLAINFIELD	96.08	GREENFIELD	78.20
BOW	96.08	OSSIPEE	78.35
AMHERST	96.07	LANCASTER	78.99
RYE	95.99	LISBON	79.13
KENSINGTON	95.96	PITTSFIELD	79.26
ATKINSON	95.86	BROOKFIELD	79.74
NEWFIELDS	95.84	STEWARTSTOWN	79.78
WINDHAM	95.81	HAVERRHILL	79.84

# Rochester's CPI



- 83.0 ...ranked 170<sup>th</sup> out of 207
- Similar in rank to Conway, below Dover, better than Lancaster and Greenfield

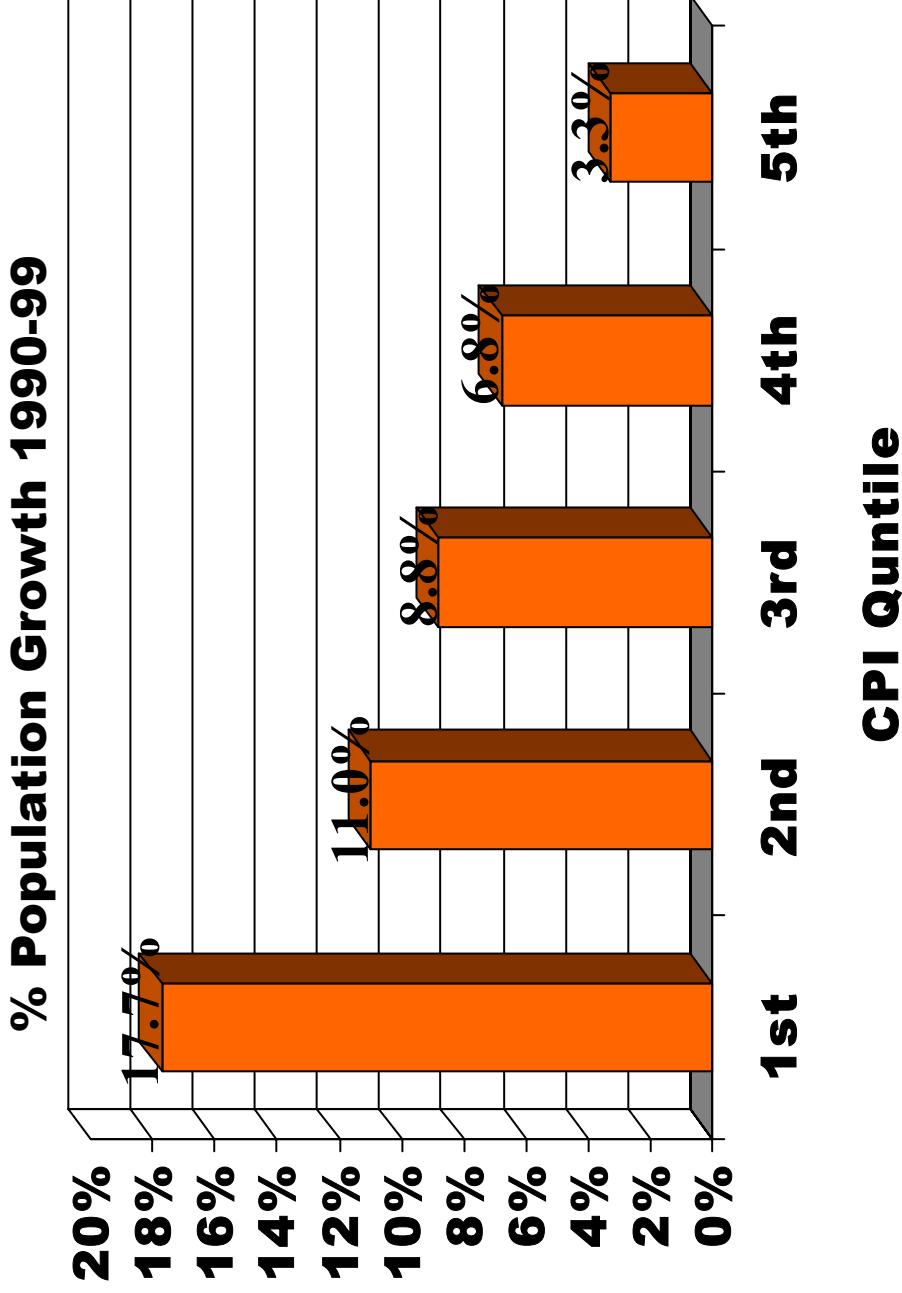
# The pattern of child risk is more complex than “north vs. south”





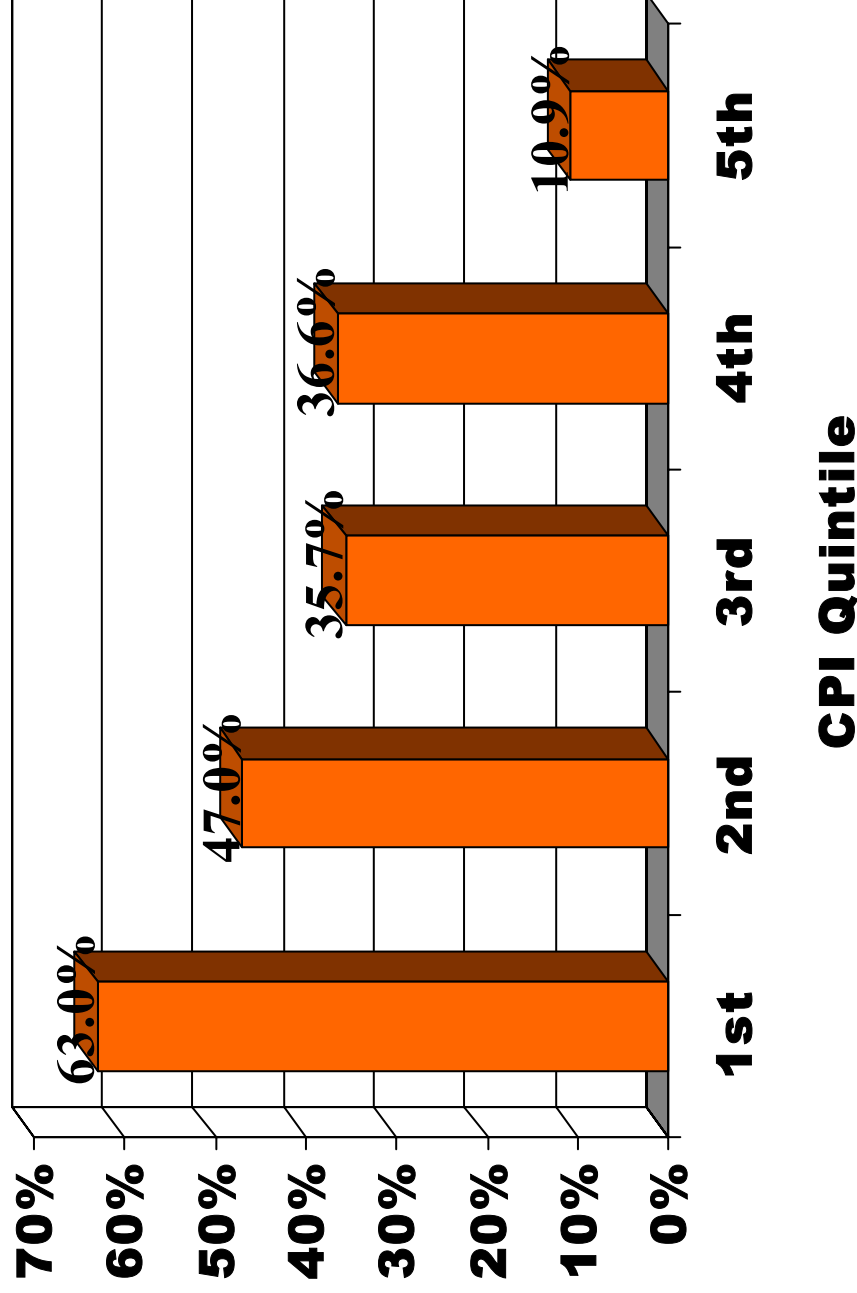
# **Why Should We Care?**

# Child well-being is a powerful attraction at the community level

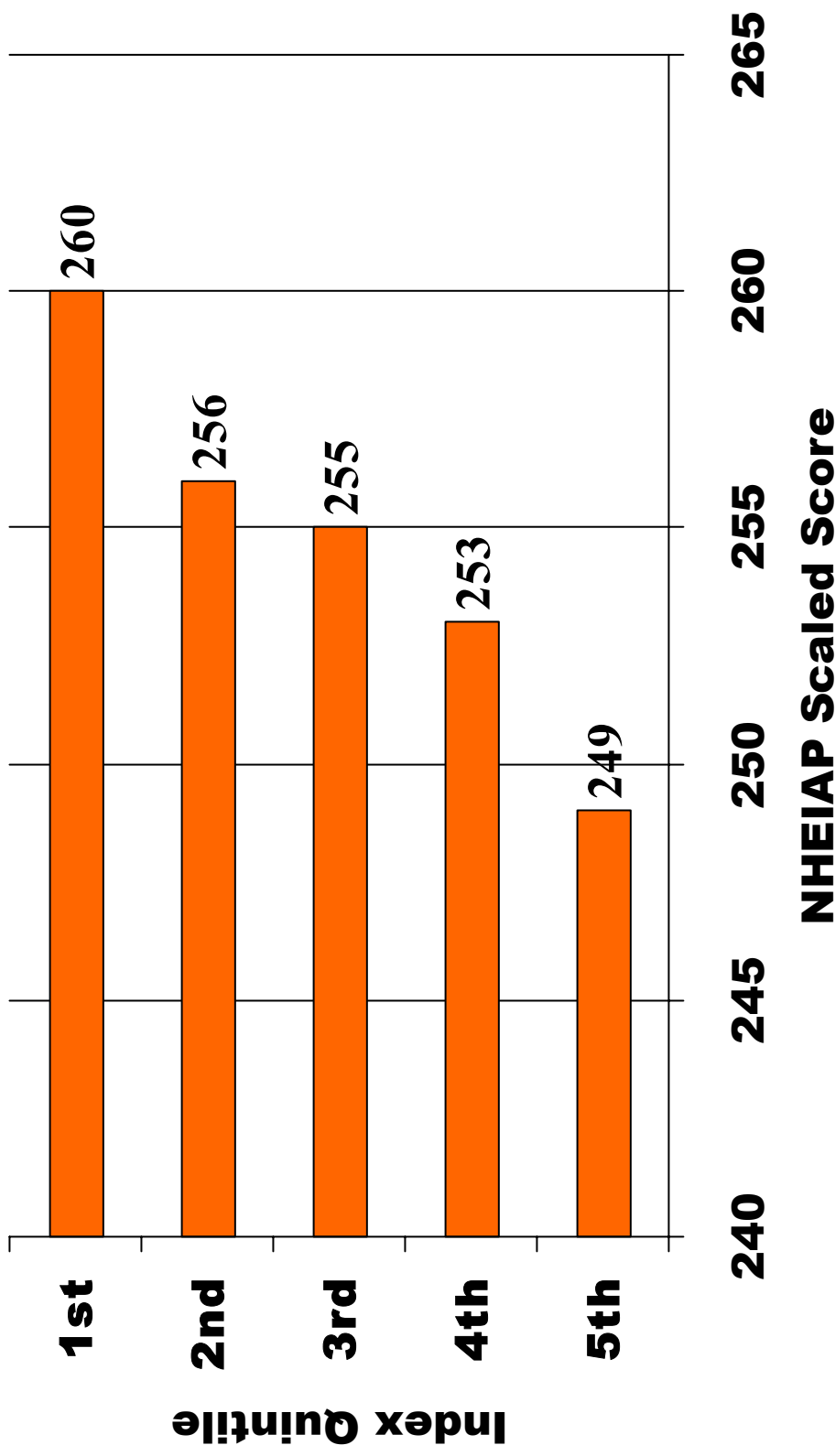


# Business growth follows population growth

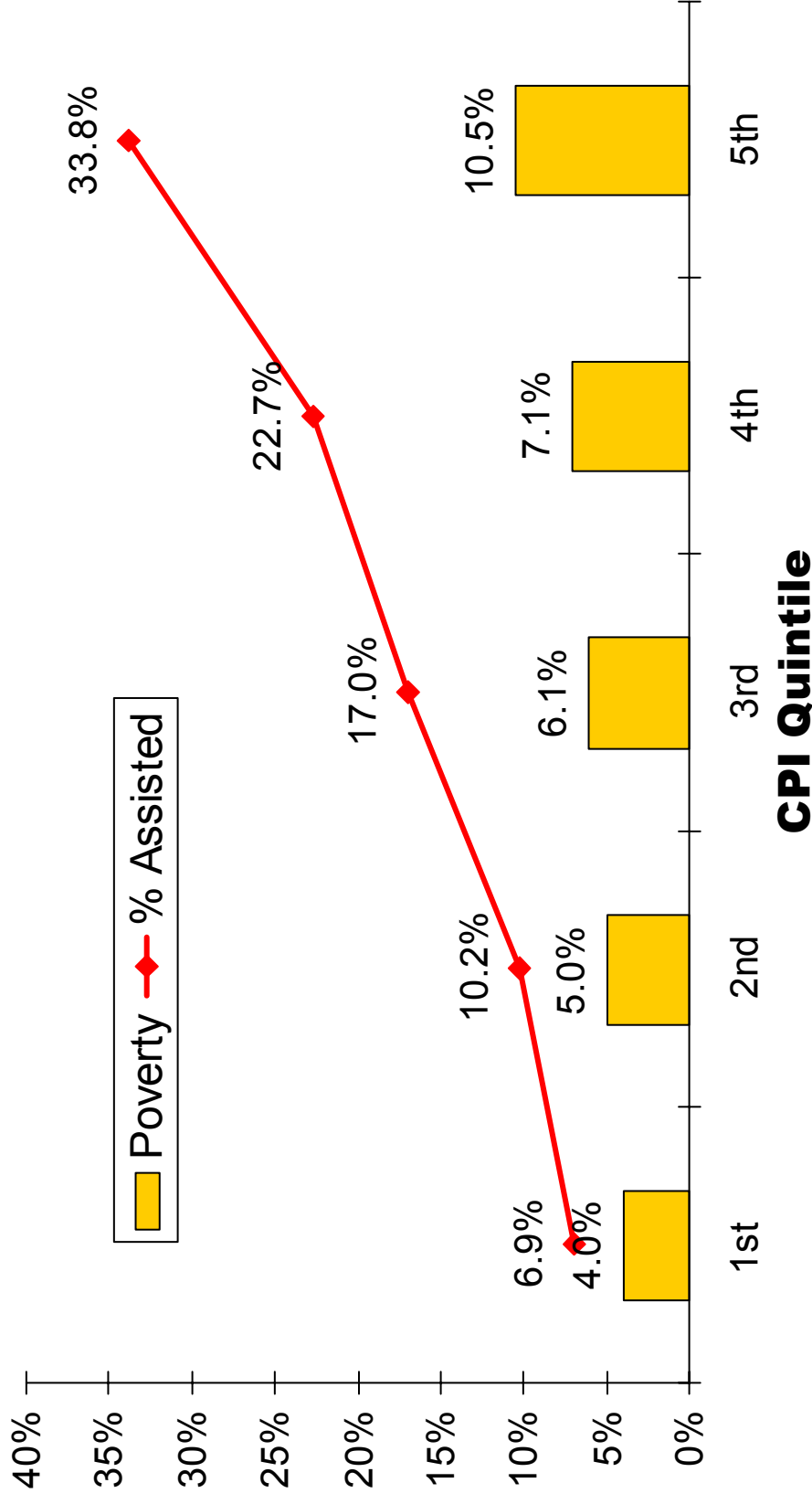
**% Growth in Businesses '88-'99**



# Child risk factors play a big role achievement test scores. (NHEIAP 3rd grade language scores by CPI quintile)



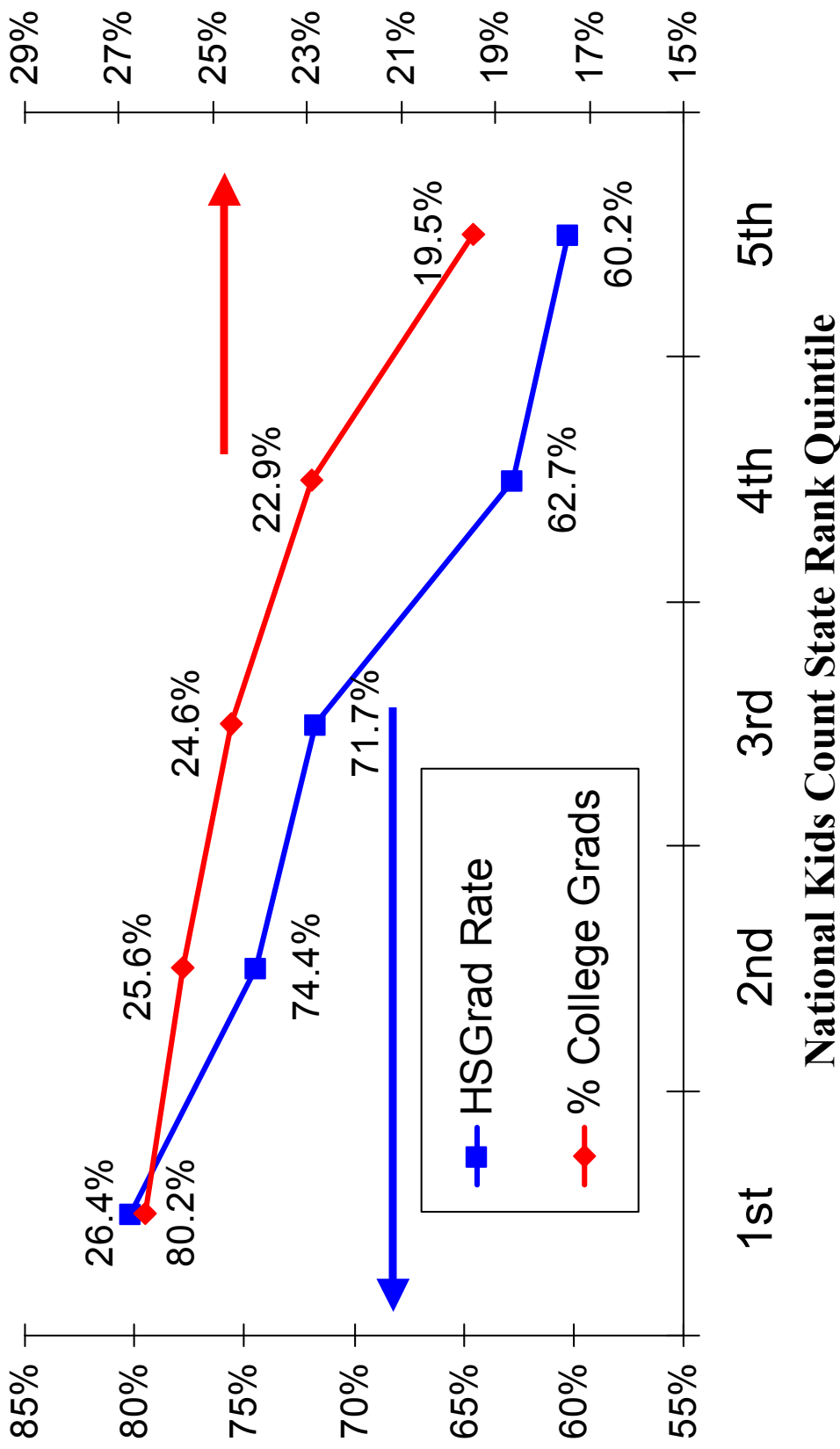
# Poverty and public assistance are associated with child risk (direction of causality?)



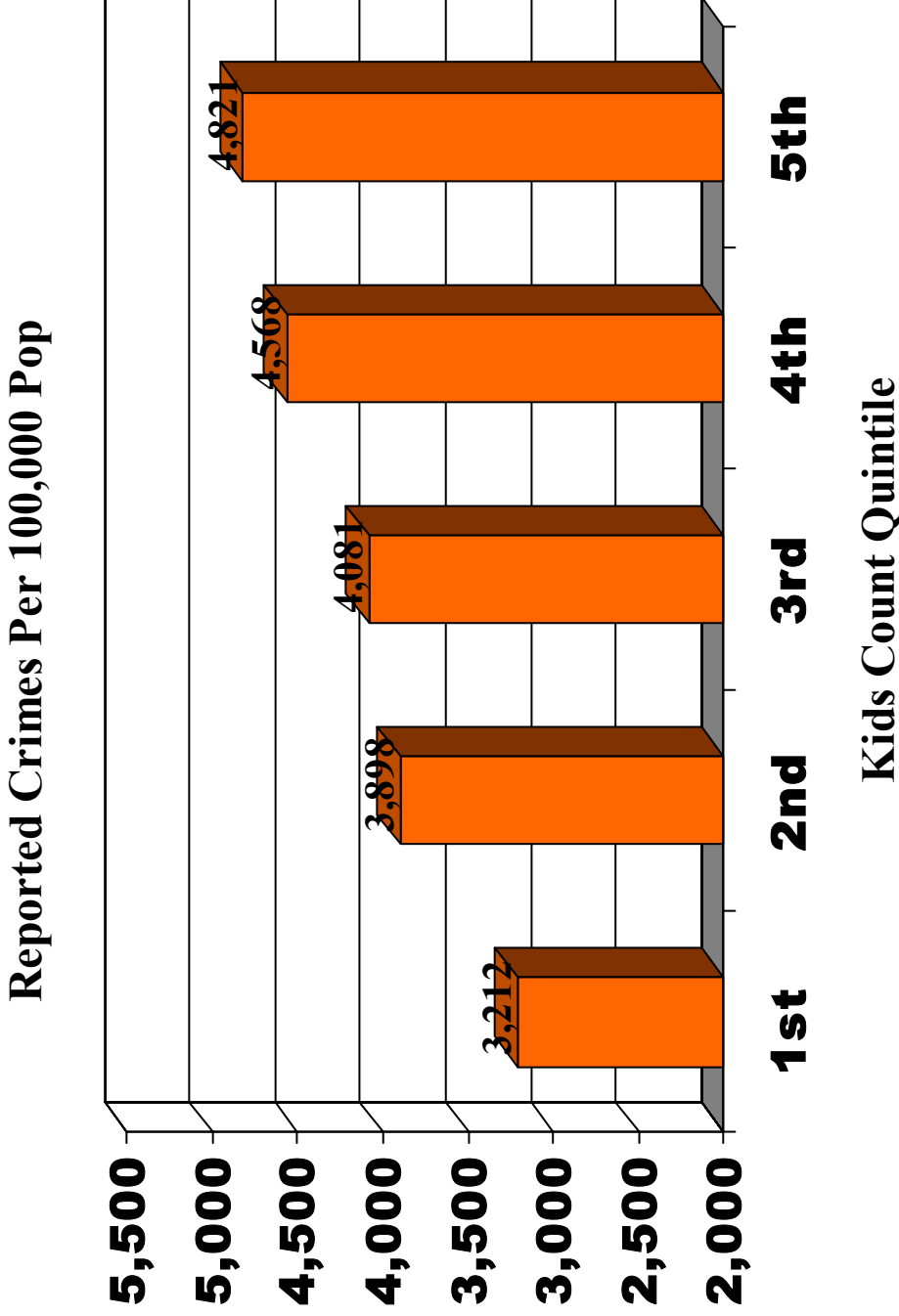


**Examining economic and social data for 50 states makes it clear that childhood risk not only costs money, it reduces productivity, earnings, and government revenues**

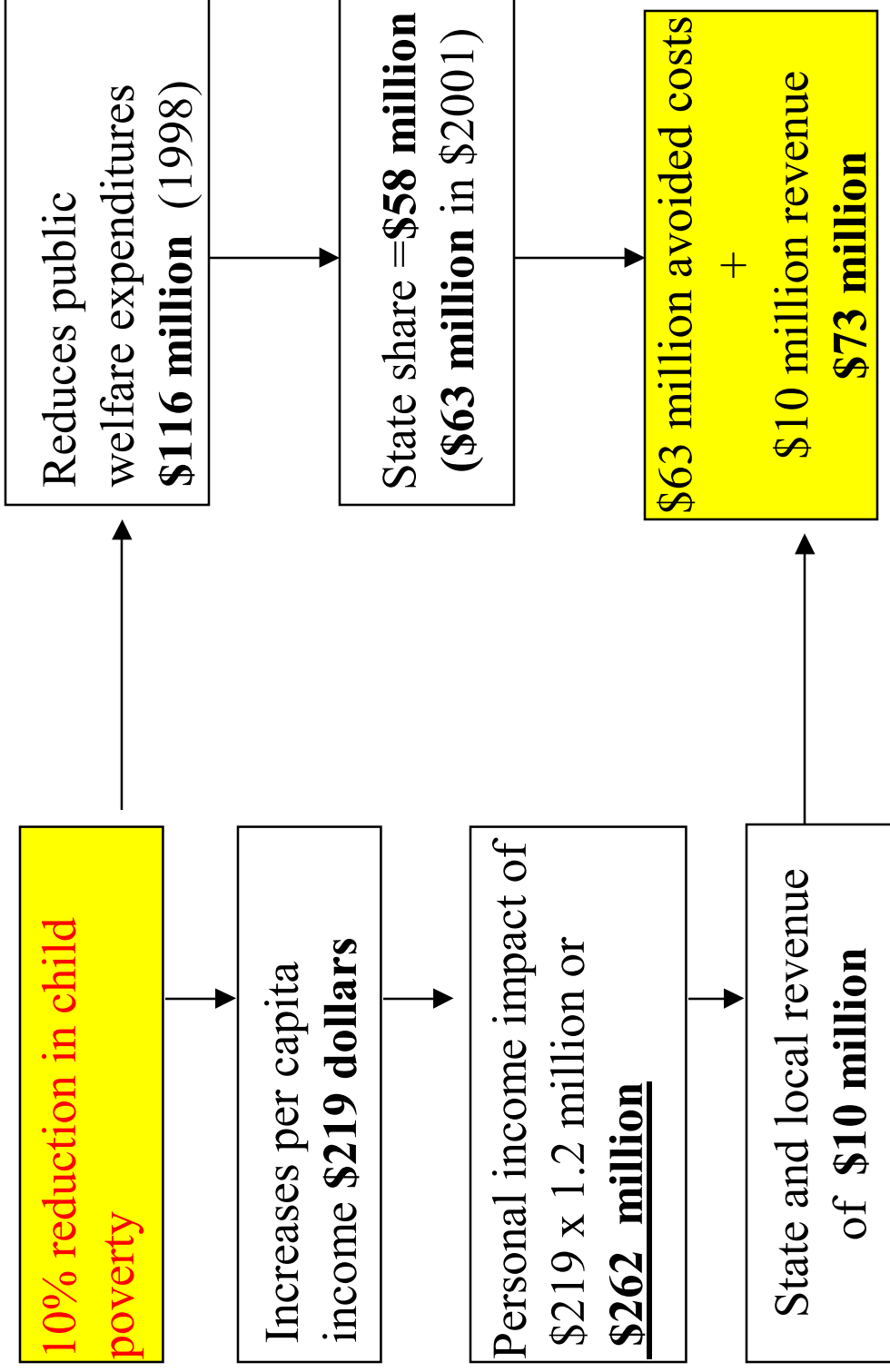
# Educ. attainment is highest in states with higher national Kids Count Rankings



# Child well-being improves most social conditions, crime is just one example



# Overview of the economic and fiscal impacts of reducing child poverty



**The dollars and “sense” of meeting the needs of children. Reducing child risk can:**



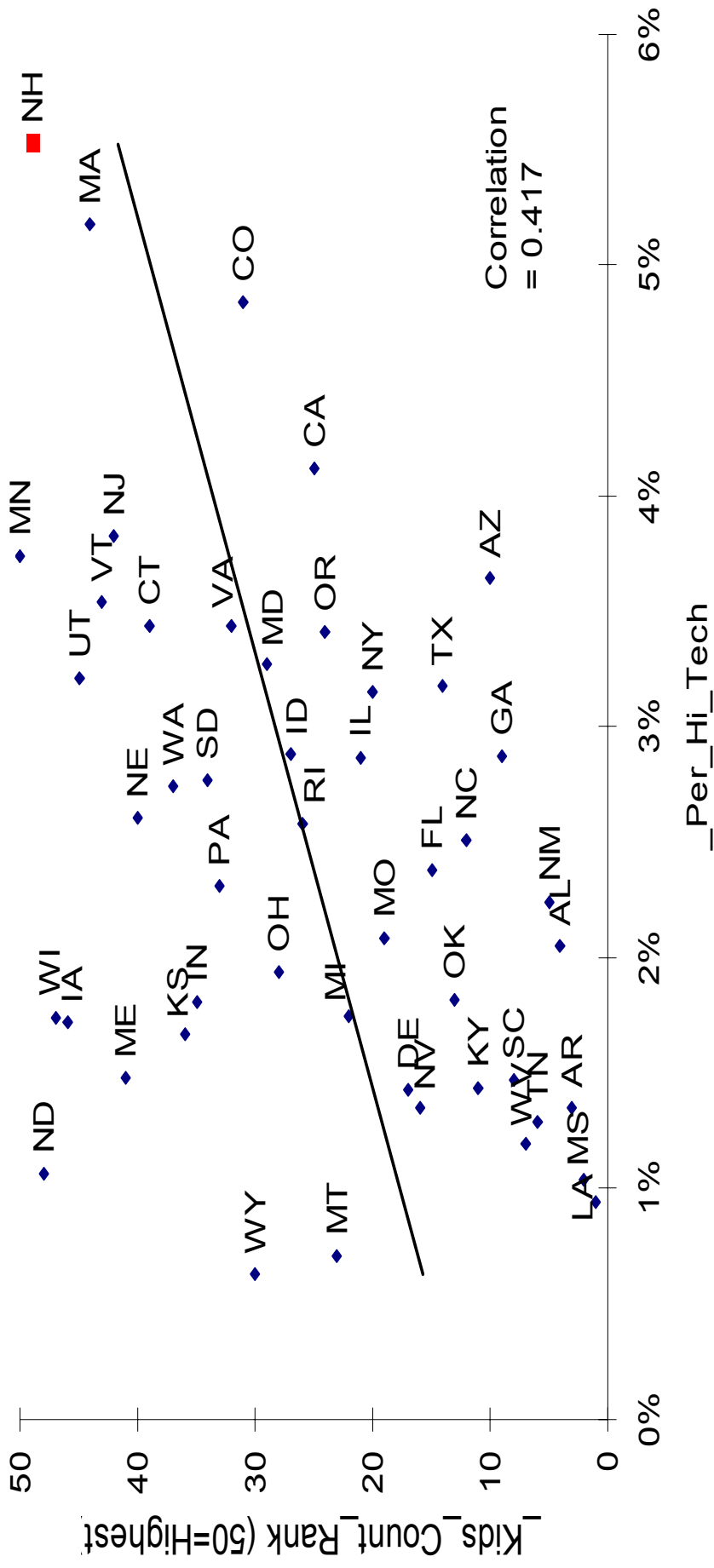
- **Reduce government social welfare expenditures**
- **Raise personal income and state revenues**
- **Make communities more attractive for families, workers and businesses**
- **Increase the wealth and resources of individuals, regions, and states**

# **Worker Productivity and the conditions of children**

- **3/4ths of children 6 weeks to 13 years had working parents**
- **Childcare related absences are estimated to cost \$12-\$24 million annually in NH (Helms & Co., 2001)**
- **The average parent and spouse combined has had to miss at least 1/2 day of work on nearly 3 occasions over the last year because of childcare-related absences (Helms & Co., 2001)**
- **Businesses can “invest” in family support services to avoid that loss**

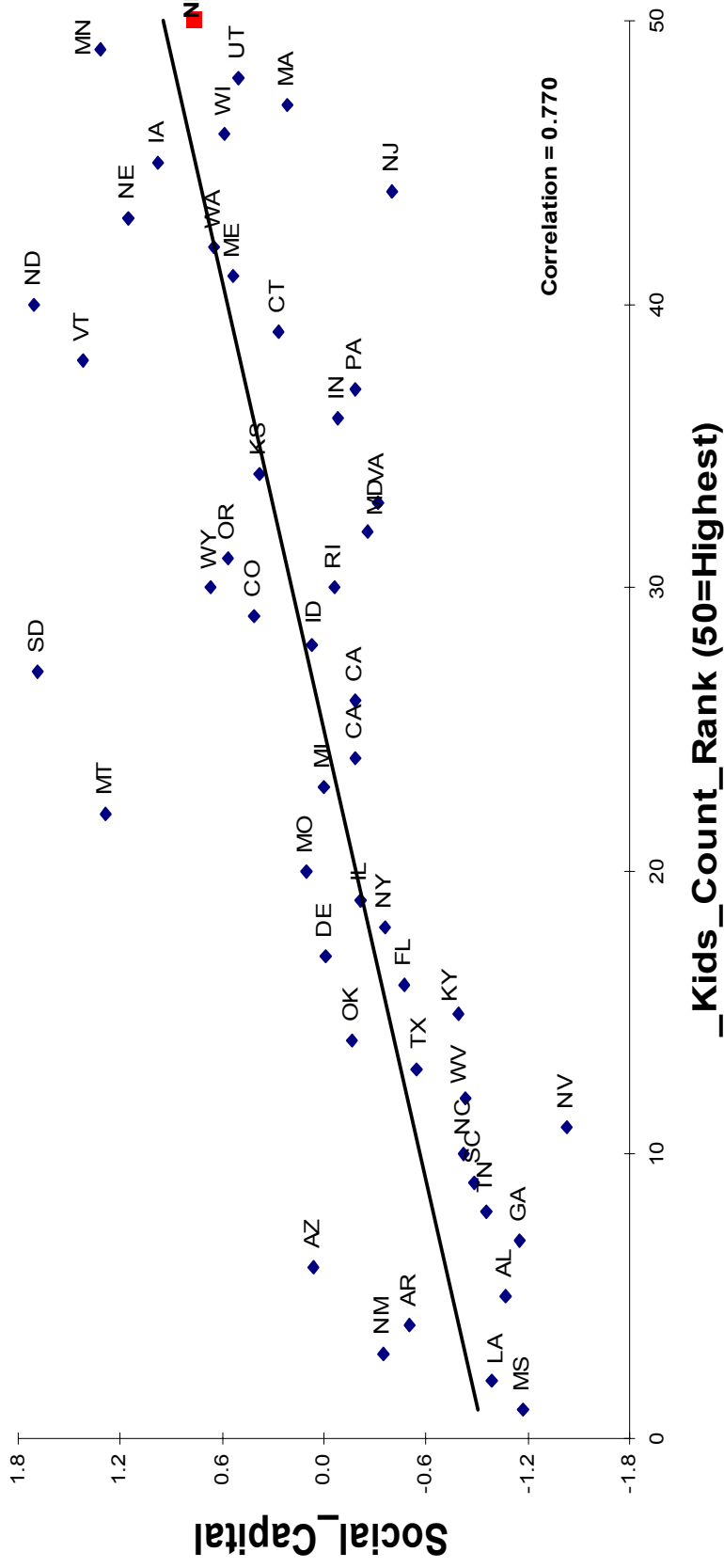
# The economic linkage of conditions of children and “high tech NH”

Kids Count Rank and Percent Employment in High Technology Industries




# Social Capital and the Conditions of Children in NH

## Social Capital and Kids Count Rank



# **Social Capital and NH's Children**



- **Children help weave together the social fabric in NH**
- **Families in NH with children are more likely to know their neighbors, assume leadership positions & volunteer their time (*UNH Survey Center, 2000*)**

***What to do...***



**Where do we go from**  
**here?**

# The Challenge ahead...how best to achieve progress

- Marginal reductions will be hard to achieve on factors which the state has strong ranking
- The most progress in reducing child risk can be made by focusing efforts on a small number of factors for which significant reductions can be made and which correlate strongly with other risk factors:
  - *(1) Increase HS graduation rate and post-secondary matriculation*
  - *(2) Enhance efforts by businesses to assist family members at the workplace, e.g., with support of childcare, flex time, health insurance*
  - *(3) Reduce teen pregnancy and smoking*
  - *(4) Poverty reduction*

# Initiatives for the Future

- **Invest in Education, including:**
  - ELLaL Campaign Focuses on Early Learning
- **Enhanced efforts by businesses to assist family members at the workplace, including:**
  - Increasing the number of licensed daycare slots
  - Improving affordability of daycare and the quality of after school programs
  - Reducing lost time due to childcare-related absences can save businesses over \$20 million annually
- **Reduce Poverty**
  - Poverty highly related to educational attainment and family status so gains on advancing high school graduation rates will help address poverty in NH