



# YOUTH VIOLENCE IN NEW MEXICO

An Assessment of Indicators,  
Policies, Resources,  
and Community Readiness

NEW MEXICO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH

Office of Injury Prevention  
Injury and Behavioral Epidemiology Bureau  
Epidemiology and Response Division

The Violence Free Youth Partnership

*Funded by Centers For Disease Control and  
Prevention ESCAPe (Grant #  
U17/CCU624342-01) November, 2005*

# New Mexico Assessment on Youth Violence

2

## Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>I. Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>II. Current Indicators and Statistics</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>III. Risk and Resiliency Factors</b>	<b>8</b>
Background and National Trends	8
New Mexico Risk Factors	9
New Mexico Resiliency (Protective) Factors	13
Additional Youth Surveys on Risk and Resiliency Factors	17
Youth Mapping	18
Youth Alliance Survey	20
Southern Doña Ana Action for Youth	24
<b>IV. Youth Violence in Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>V. Community Readiness Survey Data</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>VI. Policy Assessment</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>VII. Resource Inventory</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>VIII. Conclusion</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>IX. References</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>X. Acknowledgements</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>XI. Appendices</b>	<b>42</b>
1. Glossary of Terms and Acronyms	
2. Youth Alliance Survey Questionnaire	
3. Southern Doña Ana Action for Youth Questionnaire	
4. New Mexico Department of Health Community Readiness Survey Questionnaire	

**N**ew Mexico (NM) has some of the highest rates of violence in the country. The high rates of violence extend to the youth and young adult (18–24 years old) populations. New Mexico’s youth homicide and suicide rates have been higher than national rates over the last 10 years.

In 2004, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided a two year planning grant to the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) for the purpose of initiating activities that reduce youth violence in New Mexico. Youth violence is defined as aggressive behaviors that may result in injury or death committed by and against youth. Such behaviors are exemplified by child maltreatment, youth suicide, sexual violence, school violence, bullying, community violence, teen dating violence, and domestic violence involving children, youth and young adults (0–24 years of age).

Comprehensive prevention of youth violence requires addressing the issue at all four levels of human ecology—individual, interpersonal, family, and community. The initial activities were focused on two primary areas:

1. A detailed assessment of current indicators (risk and resiliency factors), data sources, statewide policies (statutory or other), and currently available resources (programs and services) as they relate to youth violence in New Mexico. An assessment of the readiness of the community to respond to youth violence was also included.
2. Development of a statewide strategic plan, with input from a diverse cross-section of the community that will establish long-term strategies for reducing youth violence in New Mexico.

The assessment was conducted during the summer of 2005 and is informing the statewide strategic planning process.

This report presents the results of the assessment under year one of the CDC planning grant. It provides information from youth surveys and other data sources to establish

# Executive Summary

a “snapshot” of current trends in New Mexico. This assessment includes analysis of risk and resiliency/protective factors among New Mexico youth, including:

## RISK FACTORS

- ▶ History of violence, physical fights
- ▶ Access to, use of weapons
- ▶ Risks to personal safety, including being threatened, feeling unsafe at school, hurt by a boy/girl friend
- ▶ Alcohol and drug related influences
- ▶ Mental and physical health concerns

## RESILIENCY FACTORS

- ▶ Youth engagement, community service opportunities
- ▶ Academic performance, excellence in education
- ▶ Life skills and social competencies
- ▶ Supportive relationships with adults at school, home, in the community
- ▶ Influence of norms and expectations on youth

*Among the greatest risk factors identified by youth are drugs and alcohol use, racism, gang involvement, domestic violence, teen pregnancy, and mental health concerns.*

The assessment includes youth perspectives on risk and resiliency factors from several activities and surveys. Among the greatest risk factors identified by youth are drugs and alcohol use, racism, gang involvement, domestic violence, teen pregnancy, and mental health concerns. Youth report resiliency factors as positive relationships with peers and adults, participation in after school activities, and spiritual/religious involvement.

A recent study of youth in five Pueblo communities highlights cultural aspects of violence among Native American youth and identifies the importance of culturally-appropriate strategies in reducing youth violence. Alcohol and drug use among Native American youth are high and barriers to prevention include language concerns. Additionally, there is an increase of gang activity in the Native American communities as a result of influence from neighboring urban communities.

A community readiness analysis indicates a need for additional programming (compared to substance abuse prevention), resources, and capacity-building among service providers. Some barriers to prevention efforts were identified by key informants throughout the State, including geography/distance, language, and systemic inadequacies.

*Some barriers to prevention efforts were identified by key informants throughout the State, including geography/distance, language, and systemic inadequacies.*

Momentum is developing for future efforts aimed at reducing the incidence of youth violence in New Mexico through support of prevention, intervention and outreach activities. The strategic planning process was initiated in September 2005; ongoing and future activities will include input from a statewide coalition known as the Violence-Free Youth Partnership (VFYP). The NMDOH is poised to lead the efforts with the support of the VFYP and the New Mexico Children’s Cabinet. Additionally, through its connection with the Children’s Cabinet, the New Mexico Youth Alliance (NMYA) is encouraging and facilitating youth support of violence remediation efforts.

It is expected that the VFYP will grow to be comprised of key individuals from state agencies, school systems, community-based organizations, law enforcement agencies, faith-based organizations, media, and other community stakeholders, including youth and health care providers. The VFYP will reflect the cultural diversity that exists in New Mexico and will include strategic connections to the New Mexico Children’s Cabinet and the legislative body as a means to stimulate new policy or resources to reduce violence among youth in New Mexico.

New Mexico has some of the highest rates of youth violence in the country. In 2002, New Mexico was among the states with the highest rates of violent deaths and suicides for all ages. Suicide and homicide are the second and third leading cause of death for 15–24 year olds in New Mexico. Homicide is also the second leading cause of death for 5-9 year olds.<sup>1</sup> Firearms were responsible for 50% of all homicides and 60% of all suicides in the state. Additionally, 17,397 victims of domestic violence were identified by New Mexico law enforcement agencies in 2002. Law enforcement also reported 3,381 children witnessing domestic violence incidents. In New Mexico high schools, one in ten youth reported being threatened or injured with a weapon at school in 2003 and 12% reported being the victim of dating violence.<sup>2</sup>

*In New Mexico high schools, one in ten youth reported being threatened or injured with a weapon at school in 2003 and 12% reported being the victim of dating violence.<sup>2</sup>*

In 2004, the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) obtained an ESCAPE grant (Enhancing State Capacity to Address Child and Adolescent Health through Violence Prevention, Grant U17/CCU624342-01) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop a statewide youth violence prevention and intervention strategy. As part of the CDC grant, NMDOH embarked on a comprehensive assessment of factors contributing to youth violence in the state. The assessment would lead to the development and implementation of strategic plans for prevention and intervention systems.

*Youth violence* is defined as aggressive behaviors that may result in injury or death

committed by and against youth, specifically, child maltreatment, youth suicide, sexual violence, school violence, bullying, community violence, and teen dating violence/domestic violence for ages 0–24, addressed within individual, interpersonal, community or social levels.

Generally speaking, the definition of *youth* utilized in this assessment includes children through young adults (0–24 years) as specified by the CDC. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) identifies “transitional” youth as adolescents between the ages of 14 and 25 who are transitioning into adulthood.<sup>3,4</sup> The New Mexico Department of Health refers to youth between the ages of 18–24 as “young adults.” Current research suggests that additional programming and/or services directed at this age group provides greater opportunity for at-risk youth to successfully transition to adulthood. However, some of the data collection tools used for this report (e.g., YRRS) were directed at specific age ranges and are identified below.

*The definition of youth utilized in this assessment includes children through young adults (0–24 years).*

The New Mexico Assessment on Youth Violence has seven (7) primary components:

1. Youth homicide and suicide rates in New Mexico.
2. Risk and resiliency factors based on several youth surveys and youth mapping activities in recent years:
  - Youth Risk and Resiliency surveys (YRRS) of youth (14–18 years old) conducted by the NMDOH in 2003.

# I. Introduction

6

- A youth “mapping” activity (2005) funded by the New Mexico Department of Health as part of the CDC planning grant. The contractor (*Inspired Leadership*) for the youth mapping activity implemented a modification of the ecological frameworks developed by the Violence Prevention Alliance (in collaboration with the World Health Organization<sup>5</sup>) and the National Violence Prevention Resource Network.<sup>6</sup> The ecological framework allows for assessment of risk and protective factors across five “domains” or levels of influence: Personal, Family, Peers/Friends, School, and Community.
  - A 2005 statewide survey of youth and young adults (14–24 years old) conducted by the New Mexico Youth Alliance, under the direction of a statewide intermediary, the New Mexico Forum for Youth in Community.
  - A 2003 survey of youth (11–18 years old) in the Gadsden School District conducted by the Southern Doña Ana Action for Youth.
3. Results from a telephone survey of key informants across New Mexico provide an indicator of community readiness for comprehensive youth violence prevention strategies, including comparisons with statewide substance abuse prevention and intervention programming aimed at youth.
  4. Information on policies and legislation, planned or implemented, relevant to youth violence or youth violence prevention in New Mexico.
  5. An inventory of resources and/or programs devoted to youth violence concerns in New Mexico.
  6. A review of youth violence and related issues specific to the Native American population and communities in New Mexico.
  7. A brief review of other considerations (socio-economic, cultural, geographic) that may affect future prevention and intervention efforts in New Mexico.

Additionally, the NMDOH is establishing the New Mexico Violence-Free Youth Partnership (VFYP) to assist in development of the statewide planning efforts. The VFYP will include the formation of a statewide coalition with representation from around the state. The VFYP will facilitate collaboration with other prevention efforts within the NMDOH and with other national, state, and local agencies as well.

It is expected that the VFYP will be comprised of key individuals from state agencies, school systems, community-based organizations, youth-development practitioners, law enforcement agencies, faith-based organizations, health care providers, media, and other community stakeholders, including youth. The Violence-Free Youth Partnership will reflect the cultural diversity that exists in New Mexico.

*The VFYP will include the formation of a statewide coalition with representation from around the state.*

*The Violence-Free Youth Partnership will reflect the cultural diversity that exists in New Mexico.*

## II. Current Indicators and Statistics

### Violent Death Rates

Nationally, homicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 10 to 24 overall. In this age group, it is the leading cause of death for African-Americans, the second leading cause of death for Hispanics, and the third leading cause of death for American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Asian Pacific Islanders.<sup>7</sup> In 2001, 5,486 young people ages 10 to 24 were murdered nationwide—an average of 15 each day. Of these, 79% of homicide victims ages 10 to 24 were killed with firearms.

*The rate of homicide among youth in New Mexico is among the highest in the U.S. and surpassed the national average throughout most of the 10 year period through 2002.*

The rate of homicide among youth in New Mexico is among the highest in the U.S. and surpassed the national average throughout most of the 10 year period through 2002. The high rate of homicides in the state appears to transcend geographic factors, although homicides are somewhat higher in urban settings. According to NM Vital Records and Health Statistics, almost 600 individuals (including youth) died as a result of homicides and firearms in 2003.

*According to NM Vital Records and Health Statistics, almost 600 individuals (including youth) died as a result of homicides and firearms in 2003.*

There is large variability in the rate for the 15–24 year old age group (10.6 per 100,000) compared to youth aged 10–14 years (1.3 per 100,000). Homicide is the second leading cause of death among youth age 15–24 years in New Mexico (second only to motor vehicle-related deaths) and the fifth leading cause of death among 1–14 year olds (Bureau of New Mexico Vital Records and Health Statistics).

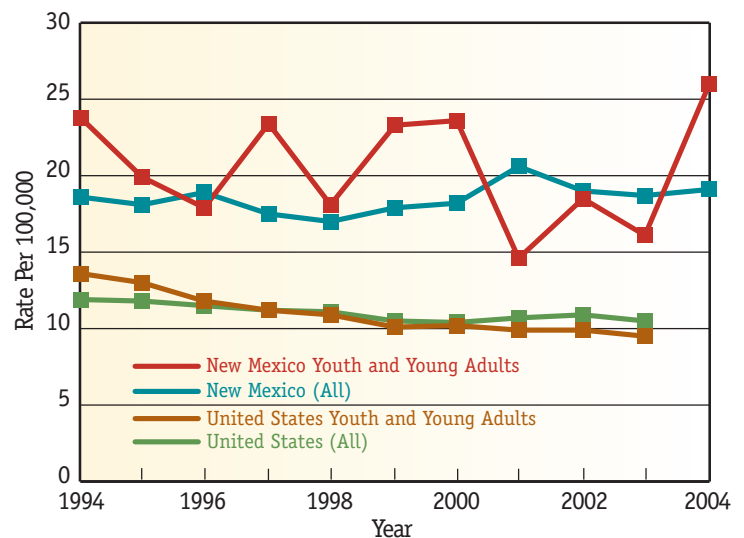
### Youth Suicide Rates

In 2001, the national suicide rate for 15–19 year olds was 8 per 100,000, a decrease from the 1994

rate of 11 per 100,000. Suicide among youth in New Mexico continues to be a large problem. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth 10–14 years old, and the third leading cause of death for youth aged 15–24. Of all suicides recorded in the state during 2003 (all ages), 83% were males.

In New Mexico, the rate of suicide from 1994 to 2004 ranged between 17 and 26 per 100,000, almost one-third higher than the national average (Figure 1). In 2002, New Mexico's suicide rate of 19.2 per 100,000 was nearly double the U.S. rate (11 per 100,000). In 2003, 17% of high school students reported having made a plan to attempt suicide and 9% attempted suicide one or more times during the prior year. The percentage of high school students who seriously considered suicide decreased from 29% to 17% between 2001 and 2003.

**Figure 1. Suicide rates for youth/young adults (15–24 yrs.) and adults, N.M. and U.S., 1994–2004**



Sources: 1994–2002 N.M. & U.S. Youth & Young Adults and U.S. All Age-Groups Data from CDC WISQARS; 2003–2004 N.M. Youth & Young Adults Data from the Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics; 2003 U.S. Youth & Young Adults and All Age-Groups Data from the National Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 53, No. 15; 1994–2004 N.M. All Age-Groups Data from the Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics

# III. Risk and Resiliency Factors

It is generally accepted in the public health and prevention disciplines that a key approach to reducing negative behaviors among youth is by focusing on reducing risk factors and encouraging development of shielding activities (resiliency). As defined here, risk factors are activities or attributes that increase the opportunities for an individual to be victimized, and also to become a perpetrator of violent behavior.<sup>7</sup> Resiliency factors, also known as protective factors, include activities or behaviors that diminish the risks of individuals to be involved in violent (or other) events.

The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, conducted between 1995 and 2002 in the United States offered insights as to the risk factors that contribute to episodes of violence among youth, and also resiliency (protective) factors among youth

that reduce propensity of youth to be involved in violent behaviors or activities. Among the risk and protective factors identified for youth and young adults are shown in the chart below<sup>8,9</sup>

## Background and National Trends

Physical fights precede many violence-related injuries and fatalities. Nationally, 9% of U.S. high school students reported being hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend on one or more occasions during the prior year.<sup>8,9</sup> In 1999, 880,000 non-fatal violent crimes occurred nationally at schools involving students aged 12–18. In 2003, 33% of high school students reported being in a physical fight at least once, with 13% of the reported physical fights occurring on school campuses.

Firearms caused 82% of the homicides among 15–19 year olds in 1998. At least 5% of high school students reported feeling unsafe at school or while going to or from school during 2003. More than 8% of high school students had at one time experienced forced sex. Nationally, 30% of all motor vehicle crashes that result in injury to youth are alcohol-related.

While knowing that a person has attempted suicide is not one of the top three indicators of predicting violent behavior, it clearly is associated with increases in risk of violence perpetration by adolescents. It seems that interpersonal and self-directed violence share many of the same risk factors. Few suicide prevention strategies have been evaluated in the U.S. However, programs that have demonstrated

*In 2003, 33% of high school students reported being in a physical fight at least once, with 13% of the reported physical fights occurring on school campuses.*

*One Resiliency/Protective Factor is supportive relationships with friends and adults at home, school, in the community*

### RISK FACTORS

- ▶ High levels of emotional stress, emotional problems
- ▶ Poor physical health
- ▶ Low achievement in school
- ▶ Truancy
- ▶ Impairments to learning
- ▶ Access to, history of carrying weapons
- ▶ History of violence or victimization
- ▶ Attempted suicide (or know someone who has)
- ▶ Perceive or are dealing with prejudice, racism
- ▶ Use of drugs, alcohol

### RESILIENCY/PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- ▶ Participation in religious/spiritual activities (i.e., church)
- ▶ Sense of connection to school
- ▶ Exhibit high academic achievement
- ▶ Supportive relationships with friends and adults at home, school, in the community
- ▶ Involvement in community engagement and/or service
- ▶ Higher levels of norms, boundaries, and expectations by adults
- ▶ Parental involvement during critical periods of the day



# III. Risk and Resiliency Factors

impact in reducing interpersonal violence may also reduce suicides.

Boys and girls are less likely to be involved in violent behavior if they have enhanced positive relationships with their peers, and with adults. Youth who are less connected to others in their schools, at home, and in their social circles often find themselves involved in violent activities, including fights and participation in gangs.

Parents and other adults are an important influence on whether or not youth engage in risky behavior. Youth who reported increased expectations by, and involvement of, parents exhibit lower risk factors, including alcohol/tobacco/drug use, binge drinking, etc.

Boys and girls are less likely to be involved in violent behavior if they:<sup>9</sup>

1. Are able to discuss problems with parents
2. Believe their parents have high expectations for school performance
3. Feel connected to their family
4. Engage in shared activities with their parents.
5. Feel connected to adults outside of their family, either in schools or in the community at large.

Researchers have found that family relationships and presence of family and community norms and expectations of youth can reduce the likelihood of their participation in violent behaviors. However, this may not apply to all cultural or socio-economic groups; additional investigation may be warranted to establish this correlation among all segments of the youth population.

Youth with higher expectations from adults at home, in the school and community generally do not engage in violent activity.<sup>7, 9</sup>

## New Mexico Risk Factors

The New Mexico Department of Health conducts a survey of high school students throughout the Public Education System once every two years. The Youth Risk and Resiliency survey (YRRS) provides key information on the magnitude of risky behavior among youth, as well as resiliency factors that contribute to positive behaviors. In 2003, the survey was distributed in 54% of the school districts in New Mexico; more than 11% of the entire student body in New Mexico responded to the survey. The YRRS provide administrators and policy makers with key information to develop statewide policy or direct resources for programming.<sup>2</sup>

The data presented below represent key risk and resiliency factors as identified by the New Mexico Department of Health, based on the 2003 YRRS survey.

## Physical Fights

In New Mexico, 38.9 % of youth reported being in a fight in the previous 12 months (Figure 2). A smaller percentage (~8%) of youth report multiple occurrences of involvement in a physical fight, and almost 2% of high school students surveyed indicated being in a fight more than a dozen times in the 30 days (Figure 3). Multiple occurrences of involvement in physical fights is largely attributed to participation in gang activity; however other factors (racism, discrimination) may also contribute the numbers.

At least 20% of youth reported involvement in a fight at school in

*Youth who reported increased expectations by, and involvement of, parents exhibit lower risk factors, including alcohol/tobacco /drug use, binge drinking, etc.*

*In New Mexico, 38.9 % of youth reported being in a fight in the previous 12 months (Figure 2).*

# III. Risk and Resiliency Factors

the previous year (2002–2003). Nationally, more than 50% of all school-associated violent deaths occur at the beginning or end of the school day or during lunch.

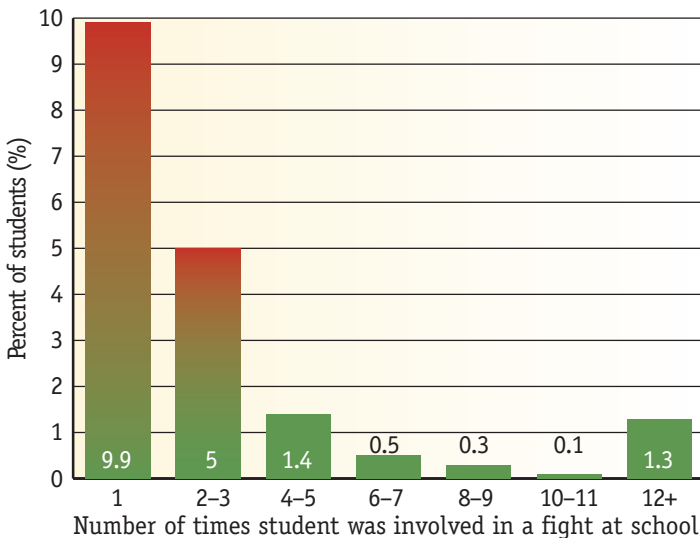
### Firearms and Other Weapons

A high rate of access to weapons is not uncommon in southern and western states where gun ownership is high, especially in rural areas. However, firearms significantly elevate the severity of violent events. Overall, more than 300 gun related deaths were recorded in New Mexico in 2003 (NM Office of Vital Records and Health Statistics), and another 385 non-lethal injuries were observed in the state (NMDOH, Epidemiology Division).

Nearly all New Mexico school districts have a policy prohibiting weapons possession or use by high school students on school property, and a significant decrease in weapons possession (gun, knife, club) occurred from 1993 to 2001 (12%–6%) on school grounds.

*Nearly all New Mexico school districts have a policy prohibiting weapons possession or use by high school students on school property.*

**Figure 2:** Percentage of students who reported being in a physical fight during the previous twelve month period, N.M., 2002–2003



Source: 2003 YRRS survey

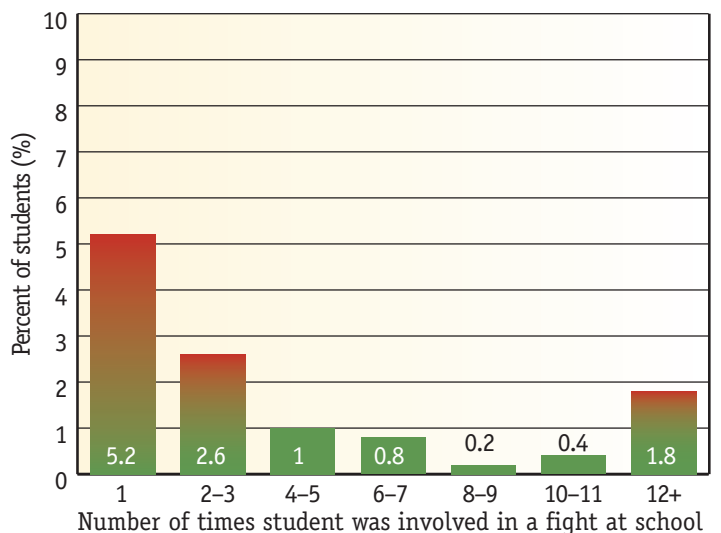
More than 60% of youth surveyed (YRRS, 2003) have access to firearms and almost half (49.8%) reported living in a home where guns were present. One quarter of youth surveyed reported that they have carried a weapon at least once during the previous year. These factors contribute to students engaging in violent behaviors; nearly 25% of high school youth surveyed indicated that they had carried a weapon within the last 30 days (YRRS, 2003).

### Personal Safety Risks

In New Mexico, more than 10% of youth surveyed reported forced sex (Figure 4), being hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend, and threatened or injured with a weapon. A smaller percentage (8%) skipped school because they felt unsafe or threatened. Risks to personal safety compound problems for youth in school and lead to a higher propensity towards violent behaviors.

*Nearly 25% of high school youth surveyed indicated that they had carried a weapon within the last 30 days.*

**Figure 3:** Percentage of students who reported being in a physical fight within the last 30 days, N.M., 2002–2003



Source: 2003 YRRS survey

# III. Risk and Resiliency Factors

## Influence of Alcohol

Heavy drinking among youth has been linked to increased number of sexual partners, use of marijuana, and poor academic performance. When asked how often they had participated in binge drinking (5 or more drinks within a few hours) at least once in the previous month, 35% of students indicated “yes” (Figure 5), up from 29% in 2001.

The number of adolescents who reported drinking on school property doubled from 7% to 14% between 2001 and 2003. Only 24% of students surveyed reported never having had a drink of alcohol. Consumption of alcohol was the second highest risk factor for New Mexico youth, surpassed only by access to weapons.

*Consumption of alcohol was the second highest risk factor for New Mexico youth, surpassed only by access to weapons.*

Alcohol use is greatest among New Mexico teens 17–18 years old. One-half (50.6%) of high school students surveyed have consumed alcohol (Figure 5). Nearly one-half (48%–50%) of all 17–18 year old males and more than one-third (39%–48%) of females in the same age category have engaged in binge drinking.

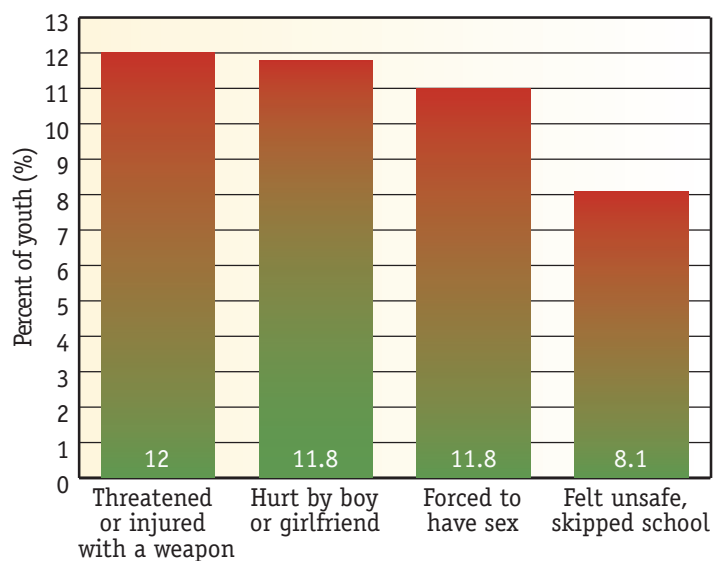
## Influence of Drugs

Compared to results of the 2001 YRRS survey, there were significant increases in most measures of use and ease of access to illicit drugs (Figure 6). Thirty (30) day marijuana use remained relative stable between 2001 (27%) and 2003 (29%). Thirty day cocaine use (including powder, crack, or freebase) doubled, from 4% in 2001 to 9% in 2003. Use of inhalants (glue, aerosols, paints, etc.) over the previous 30 day period doubled, from 3% in 2001 to 7% in 2003.

Heroin use (at least once over the previous year) increased from 1% in 2001 to 5% in 2003, while use of methamphetamines during the same time frame increased from 5% to 8%.

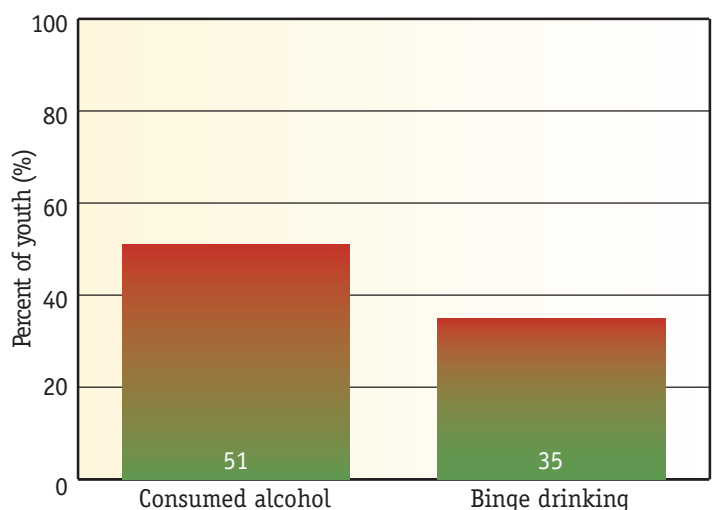
*Heroin use (at least once over the previous year) increased from 1% in 2001 to 5% in 2003.*

**Figure 4: Percent of youth who indicated threats to their physical safety during the previous twelve month period, including physical injury or feeling intimidated, N.M., 2002–2003**



Source: 2003 YRRS survey

**Figure 5: Consumption of alcohol, including binge drinking, by high school students during twelve month reporting period, N.M., 2002–2003**



Source: 2003 YRRS survey

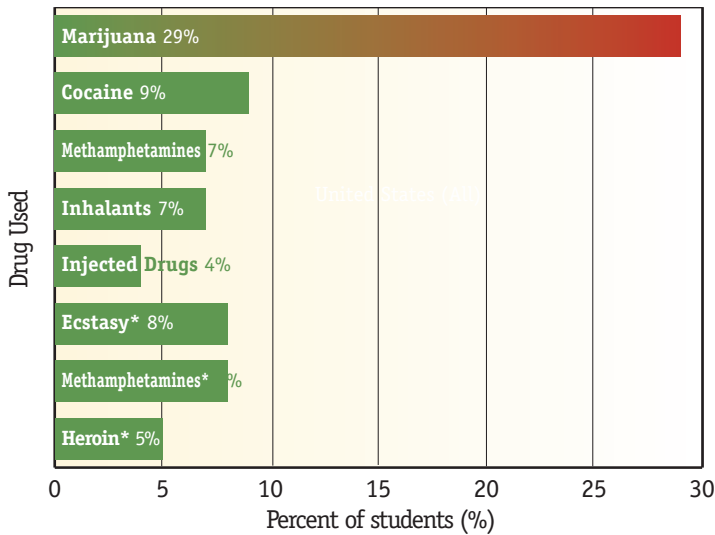
# III. Risk and Resiliency Factors

Overall, males used marijuana more than females. In 2003, 41% of students surveyed indicated that someone had offered, sold or given them an illegal drug on school property in the previous year. This is a large increase in the accessibility of illegal drugs, up

from 29% of students surveyed in 2001. Almost 70% of students indicated that marijuana was easy to obtain and one-third of students (33%) surveyed in 2003 indicated that cocaine was easy to obtain.

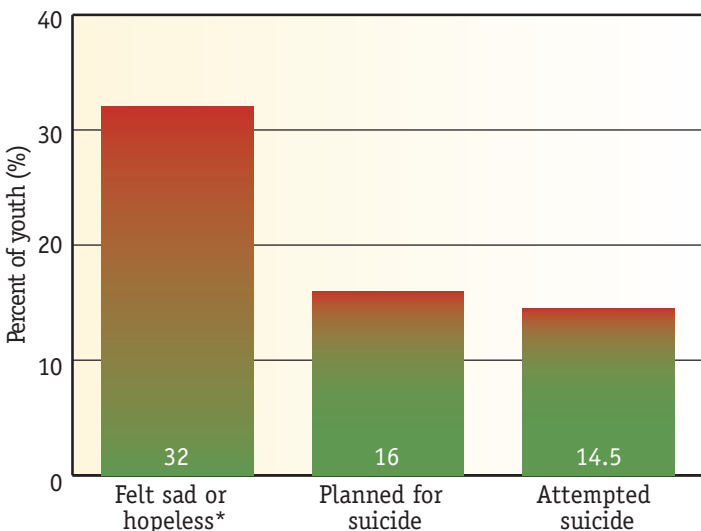
The high development of marijuana use among youth in New Mexico fuels discussion that marijuana remains a “gateway drug” and leads to additional substance abuse issues.

**Figure 6: Use of illegal drugs in last 30 days.** Asterisks (\*) represent reported use in last 12 months, rather than last 30 days, N.M., 2002–2003



Source: 2003 YRRS survey

**Figure 7: Incidence of depression (feeling sad, hopeless), suicidal ideation, and attempted suicides by high school youth, N.M., 2002–2003**



Source: 2003 YRRS survey

## Mental Health Factors

In New Mexico, nearly 1/3 of all students (32%) surveyed in 2003 felt so sad and hopeless that they stopped doing their usual activities; 20% of all students surveyed had seriously considered suicide in the previous 12 months (Figure 7).

Female teens exhibit higher rates of suicidal ideation than male teens (19–28% vs. 13–19%) and younger teenage girls (9th and 10th graders) have higher tendencies towards consideration of suicide than older teenage girls (11th and 12th graders). The highest rates for females are among high school freshmen (28%). Of teenage boys who have considered suicide, the rate is highest for high school seniors (19%) than for other grades (13–15%).

*Female teens exhibit higher rates of suicidal ideation than male teens (19–28% vs. 13–19%).*

The age differences for tendencies in suicidal ideation among boys and girls are important in identifying critical periods for outreach and prevention efforts. Young women are much more susceptible to social stresses at 14–16 years of age, while young men have greater difficulties during their senior year in high school (17–19 yrs).

*The age differences for tendencies in suicidal ideation among boys and girls are important in identifying critical periods for outreach and prevention efforts.*

## Physical Impairments

Physical impairments, including

temporary or permanent disability, provide some indicator of tendencies towards youth violence. Some physical impairments can limit a youth's ability to learn and do well academically. Physical impairments also tend to reduce youth participation in social activities, thereby increasing alienation among peers and the community at large. More than 12% of all youth surveyed in 2003 indicated that they have physical impairments that may lead to dysfunctional behavior and increase propensity towards violent behaviors (Figure 8). Additionally, nearly 15% of youth reported difficulty with learning in school as a result of their physical impairments.

*Youth who engage in more physical activity are less likely to be involved in violent behaviors.*

While not directly related to impairment, physical activity (or lack thereof) can also be a contributing factor in violent behavior among youth. Youth who engage in more physical activity are less likely to be involved in violent behaviors. Almost one-half (44%) of surveyed youth engage in vigorous physical activity for three (3) or more days weekly. Half of New Mexico high school students surveyed indicated that they didn't participate in a physical education class during an average week. Less than one-fourth of 9th–12th graders utilized school-based health facilities during the school year. A large number of students surveyed (33%–39%) indicated that no health facilities even existed at their schools.

### Compounding the Risk

Up to twenty-eight (28) risk factors can be identified from the YRRS survey; a majority of the students surveyed reported that they have experienced at least some of the risk factors described herein. The presence of multiple

risk factors in high school students varies by gender (Table 1).

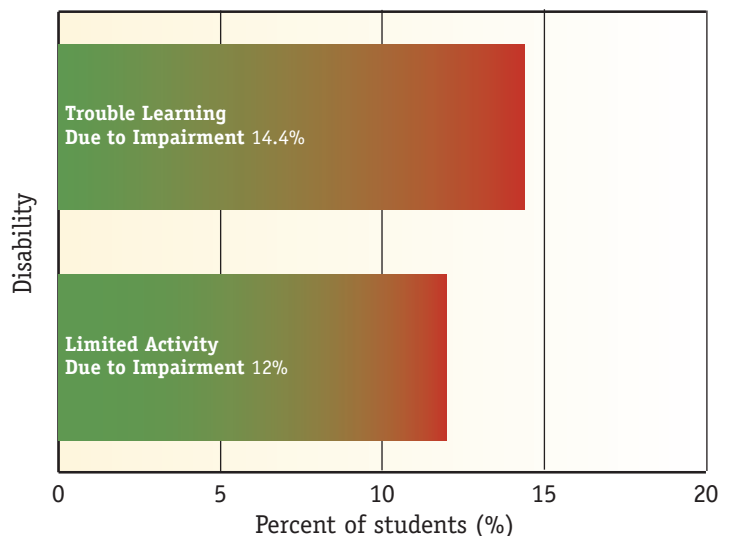
The average percentage of risk factors for females is two, compared with three for males. In Table 1, the higher number of co-occurring risk factors have been consolidated into two groups of 10–14 risk factors and 15 or higher risk factors respectively. More than 12% of youth surveyed reported having 10–28 risk factors (>15% among males). Only 7.4% of the students reported having none of the risk factors selected here. A summary of risk factors, and percentage of students who self-report them, is provided in Table 2.

### New Mexico Resiliency (Protective) Factors

Research has shown that the presence of resiliency and/or protective factors will lessen the impact of risk factors on youth violence. In New Mexico, five primary categories of resiliency factors are evident:

*Research has shown that the presence of resiliency and/or protective factors will lessen the impact of risk factors on youth violence.*

**Figure 8: Percent of youth who reported learning and activity limitations as a consequence of physical impairments, N.M., 2002–2003**



Source: 2003 YRRS survey

# III. Risk and Resiliency Factors

**Table 1. Co-occurring risk factors, by gender N.M., 2002–2003**

CO-OCCURRING RISK FACTORS	FEMALE %	MALE %	TOTAL
0	8.5%	6.3%	7.4%
1	13.1%	10.6%	12.0%
2	<b>13.5%</b>	10.6%	12.2%
3	12.9%	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>12.5%</b>
4	11.8%	9.8%	10.8%
5	9.9%	8.3%	9.2%
6	7.8%	10.0%	8.9%
7	4.2%	6.9%	5.5%
8	5.1%	5.8%	5.4%
9	3.5%	4.3%	3.9%
10–14	6.7%	10.3%	8.4%
15+	2.8%	5.1%	3.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: 2003 YRRS statistics

1. Youth engagement in service learning opportunities.
2. Academic success.
3. Life skills and social competencies.
4. Supportive relationships with others.
5. Community norms and expectations.

Results of the YRRS survey regarding resiliency factors are discussed below and summarized in Table 4.

### Engagement and Community Service

Information regarding the impacts of youth engagement opportunities on youth violence in New Mexico is minimal. Between 55% and 61% of youth reported that they participated in activities outside the home or school and

65% indicated that they are involved in volunteering activities in their communities.

No longitudinal studies have been undertaken in New Mexico and data from other research shows that youth engagement is vital to youth well-being. Research data indicate that students engaged in field work through service-learning have a greater tendency to approach others and lower anxiety in social interactions.

1. Youth engaged in service gain in social and personal responsibility.
2. Service programs help raise self-esteem and improve self-knowledge. Youth are better able to communicate with peers and adults, showing increased camaraderie among peers and more awareness of community issues.
3. Students involved in political and social action at school or in the community become more open-minded.
4. Students with behavioral difficulties who engage in field work (service-learning) have fewer discipline problems and lower levels of alienation.

Involvement in service projects reduces youth opportunities for engaging in risky behaviors and enables youth to make positive contributions to their communities. The highest time of risk for children and youth is during unsupervised hours after school. Out-of-School-Time programming and service-learning projects can counteract opportunities for youth involvement in high risk behaviors.

Service learning among children and youth is a developing practice in New Mexico. Recent

*Students with behavioral difficulties who engage in field work (service-learning) have fewer discipline problems and lower levels of alienation.*

*The highest time of risk for children and youth is during unsupervised hours after school.*

# III. Risk and Resiliency Factors

legislation in New Mexico supports development of youth volunteerism opportunities throughout the state. A variety of agencies, organizations, and school systems are collaborating towards establishing youth service engagement programming.

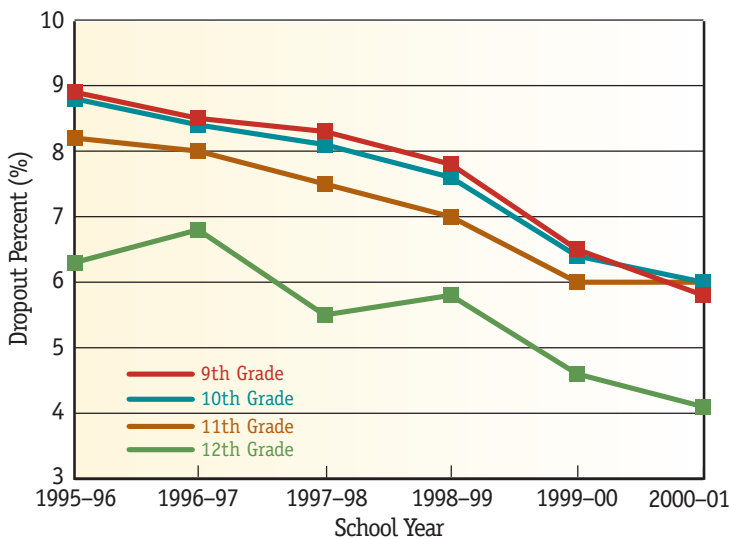
### Education and Academic Excellence

Youth involvement in violent behaviors is directly related to school engagement and academic success. Youth are less likely to be involved in violent behavior if they perceive being connected to school. Youth are more likely to be involved in violence if they perceive prejudice among students in their school.<sup>9</sup>

*Youth are less likely to be involved in violent behavior if they perceive being connected to school. Youth are more likely to be involved in violence if they perceive prejudice among students in their school.<sup>9</sup>*

Youth who have problems with learning due to disability or impairment, high workloads (jobs) are at greater risk. Expectations at school, and the existence of supportive relationships in the school setting, are key protective factors. Almost 63% of youth in New Mexico acknowledge the existence of boundaries and

**Figure 9. Dropout rates for high school youth N.M., 2002–2003**



Source: New Mexico Children’s Cabinet

**Table 2. Percentage of high school students reporting “yes” on risk factors, N.M., 2002–2003**

Risk Factors	Percent <sup>a,b</sup>
<b>ACCESS TO WEAPONS</b>	
Get a gun	60.7%
Is there a gun in your home?	49.8%
<b>CARRIED WEAPONS</b>	
Carried weapon in past 30 days	25.0%
Carried gun in past 30 days	11.3%
Carried weapon at school in past 30 days	10.9%
<b>VIOLENT BEHAVIOR</b>	
In a physical fight in past 12 months	38.9%
In a physical fight at school in past 12 months	18.5%
<b>PERSONAL SAFETY/VICTIMIZATION</b>	
Threatened or injured with weapon in past 12 months	12.0%
Times hurt by boy/girl friend in past 12 months	11.8%
Ever forced to have sex	11.0%
Felt unsafe so skipped school in past 30 days	8.1%
<b>ALCOHOL USE</b>	
Had alcohol in past 30 days	50.6%
Binge drinking in past 30 days	35.4%
<b>DRUG USE</b>	
Used marijuana in past 30 days	29.0%
Used cocaine in past 30 days	8.9%
Used methamphetamines in past 12 months	8.2%
Used ecstasy in past 12 months	7.8%
Used methamphetamines in past 30 days	7.2%
Used inhalants in past 30 days	6.8%
Used heroin in past 12 months	5.4%
Used heroin in past 30 days	4.1%
Ever injected illegal drugs	3.8%
<b>MENTAL HEALTH</b>	
Felt sad/hopeless for 2 weeks in past 12 months	31.9%
Made suicide plan in past 12 months	15.9%
Attempted suicide in past 12 months	14.4%
Suicide attempt resulted in injury in past 12 months	7.5%
<b>DISABILITY</b>	
Trouble learning due to impairment	14.4%
Limited activity due to impairment	12.0%

<sup>a</sup> Percentages reflect students reporting “Yes” on the corresponding risk factors.

<sup>b</sup> The percentages are for individual risk factors and do not add up to 100 as most students responded “Yes” to several risk factors.

# III. Risk and Resiliency Factors

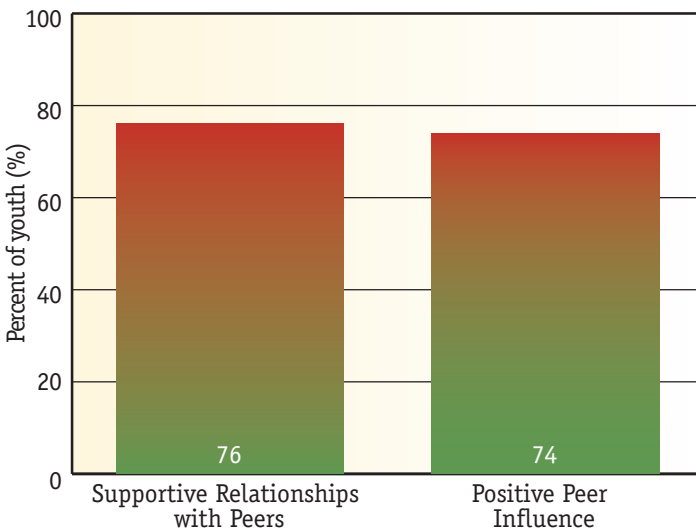
**Table 3. Percentage of high school students reporting “yes” on resiliency factors, N.M., 2002–2003**

Resiliency Factors <sup>a</sup>	Percent <sup>c,d</sup>
<b>BOUNDARIES AND EXPECTATIONS</b>	
Boundaries and Expectations at Home	80.1%
Boundaries and Expectations in the Community	73.7%
Community Norms with respect to Alcohol Use	63.1%
Boundaries and Expectations at School	63.0%
<b>RELATIONSHIP WITH PEERS</b>	
Caring/Supportive Relationship with Peers	76.3%
Positive Peer Influence	73.5%
<b>RELATIONSHIP WITH ADULTS</b>	
Caring/Supportive Relationship with Adult at Home	68.6%
Caring/Supportive Relationship with Adult in the Community	69.0%
Caring/Supportive Relationship with Adult in School	52.3%
<b>SELF-RESILIENCY</b>	
Commitment to Learning	52.3%
Life Skills/Social Competencies	51.7%
Meaningful Participation/Constructive Time Use	41.3%

Source: 2003 New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), County Results, Bernalillo County (URL: [http://www.health.state.nm.us/pdf/bernalillo\\_cnty\\_Report\\_2003.pdf](http://www.health.state.nm.us/pdf/bernalillo_cnty_Report_2003.pdf)).

- a Dichotomous resiliency factors constructed from factor analysis of multiple response variables.
- b The percentages reflect students judged to have scored “Yes” on the corresponding resiliency factors.
- c The percentages do not add up to 100 as most students are judged to score “Yes” on several resiliency factors.

**Figure 10: Percent of youth who report supportive and influential relationships with peers and friends, N.M., 2002–2003**



Source: 2003 YRRS survey

expectations in school and more than half of youth report caring and supportive relationships. A majority (52%) of youth surveyed reported a commitment to learning in school.

As the dropout rates decrease (Figure 9) and academic achievement increases, youth are less likely to be involved in violent activities. Youth who feel connected to their school is a key protective factor. Poor academic performance is considered a risk factor and is closely associated with violence among youth.<sup>9</sup>

### Life Skills and Social Competencies

Self-resiliency factors, including meaningful or constructive use of time, commitment to learning, and possessing the needed life skills and social competencies scored among the lowest protective factors, based on the YRRS data. Only about one-half (51.7%) of the students surveyed reported the existence of positive life skills and social competencies (Table 3).

### Supportive Relationships

Nearly 75% of youth in New Mexico reported supportive relationships with their peers and indicate that peer influence can yield positive results (Figure 10). The relationships that youth maintain with their peers become an integral part of the support system for youth in New Mexico, and throughout the country.

More than 85% of N.M. high school students surveyed indicated that their parents (or some other adult) take interest in their school work, expect them to follow rules, and believe they’ll be successful. Higher percentages (66%–74%) of students surveyed indicate that they have relationships with adults who allow them to talk about their

Poor academic performance is considered a risk factor and is closely associated with violence among youth.<sup>9</sup>

More than 85% of N.M. high school students surveyed indicated that their parents (or some other adult) take interest in their school work, expect them to follow rules, want them to do their best, and believe they’ll be successful.



# III. Risk and Resiliency Factors

*A lower percentage (52%) of students surveyed indicated the existence of caring and supportive relationships with adults at school.*

problems and listen when they have something to say (Figure 11).

A lower percentage (52%) of students surveyed indicated the existence of caring and supportive relationships with adults at school (Figure 11). It is important to remember as well, that the largest school district in New Mexico (Albuquerque Public Schools) participated in the YRRS survey for the first time in 2003.

### Community Norms and Expectations

Despite increasing trends toward violent behavior among high school youth, most New Mexico students report a high level of positive influence and expectations (Figure 12) of them by adults around them. Almost two-thirds of youth surveyed indicated reported that most adults in their community do not favor use of alcoholic products by youth.

These data provide a contrasting view of what is traditionally seen as

a resiliency, or protective, factor; youth in NM have relatively high levels of expectations and norms that guide them (resiliency and/or protective factors), but trends towards youth violence remain on the increase in the state.

### Co-Occurring Resiliency Factors

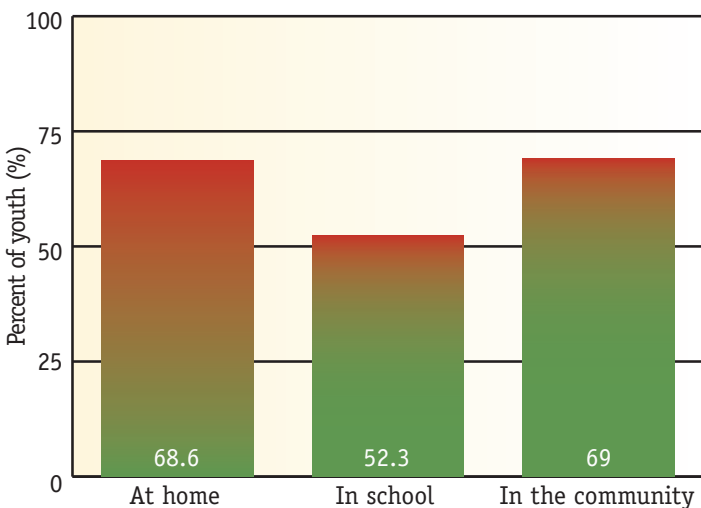
Young men have a higher number of risk factors, and also fewer resiliency factors than young women. Table 4 shows the mode of resiliency factors to be at 10, for both boys and girls. Overall, 2.4% of the students reported having no resiliency factors. However, the boys seem to fare much worse than the girls even though the numbers are low. Among the boys, 3.8% had no resiliency factors, which was more than three times as many as girls (1.2%) with no resiliency factors.

*Young men have a higher number of risk factors, and also fewer resiliency factors than young women.*

### Additional Youth Surveys on Risk and Resiliency Factors

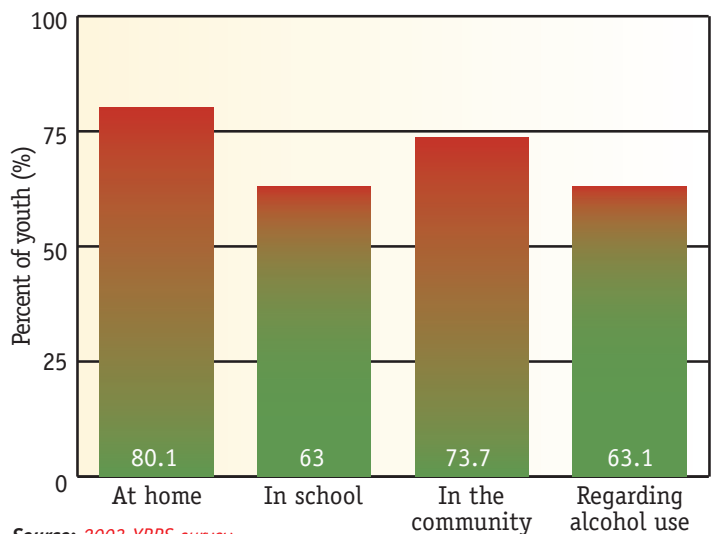
The statewide assessment on risk and protective factors also

**Figure 11:** Percent of youth reporting caring and supportive relationships with adults at home, school, and in the community, N.M., 2002–2003



Source: 2003 YRRS survey

**Figure 12:** Relative high incidence of youth who have positive expectations and clearly defined boundaries regarding risky behaviors and alcohol use, N.M., 2002–2003



Source: 2003 YRRS survey

# III. Risk and Resiliency Factors

utilized input from youth via non-scientific surveys activities to determine youth perceptions of risk and resiliency factors. These include two activities conducted in the summer of 2005: 1) a youth “mapping” process conducted in conjunction with the CDC-sponsored planning grant to examine risk and resiliency among five domains (personal, family, friends/peers, school, and community/neighborhood) of youth influence, and 2) a survey conducted of, and by youth via a statewide youth leadership coalition (New Mexico Youth Alliance). Additionally, data from a third survey conducted of youth and young adults along the Mexico-New Mexico border in 2003 are also included here.

The responses from the youth mapping activities and surveys provide additional observations regarding the presence and magnitude of risk and protective factors for youth in New Mexico. Data collected from these efforts provide somewhat of a statewide “snapshot”—participants represent a cross-section of communities as shown in Figure 13. Each of the activities is described in greater detail below.

*The responses from the youth mapping activities and surveys provide additional observations regarding the presence and magnitude of risk and protective factors for youth in New Mexico.*

## Youth Mapping

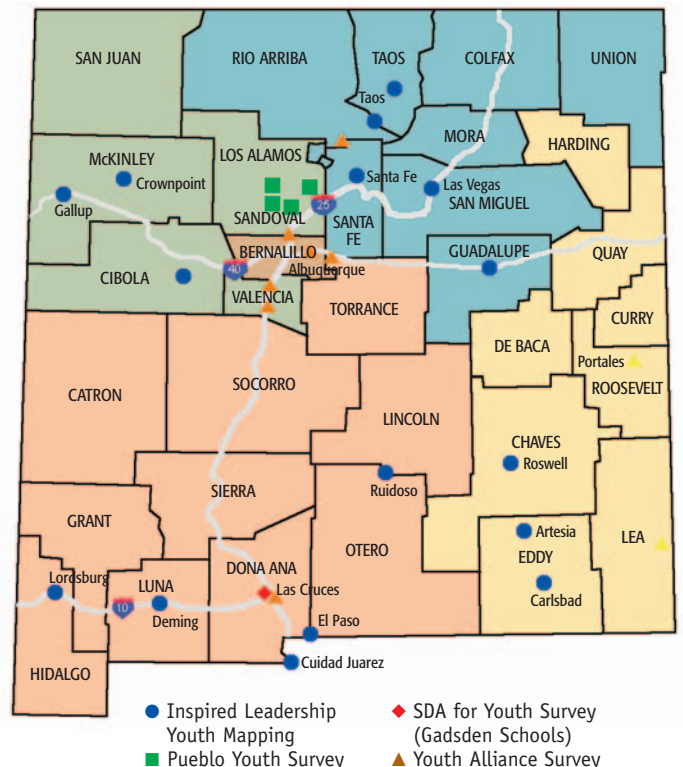
In June 2005, *Inspired Leadership*, a contractor for the New Mexico Violence Free Youth Partnership, coordinated a youth focus group on youth violence issues.<sup>10</sup> The focus group consisted of 71 young people from 19

**Table 4. Co-occurring resiliency (protective) factors among young men and women, N.M., 2002–2003**

CO-OCCURRING RISK FACTORS	FEMALE %	MALE %	TOTAL
0	1.2%	3.8%	2.4%
1	3.0%	5.5%	4.2%
2	3.8%	6.4%	5.0%
3	3.0%	5.6%	4.2%
4	6.6%	6.8%	6.7%
5	6.4%	7.2%	6.8%
6	6.3%	7.4%	6.8%
7	9.8%	9.5%	9.6%
8	11.1%	10.5%	10.8%
9	11.9%	11.0%	11.5%
10	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>
11	13.3%	8.8%	11.2%
12	9.6%	5.0%	7.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: 2003 YRRS statistics

**Figure 13. Geographic distribution of youth who participated in three survey/feedback activities related to risk and resiliency factors**



# III. Risk and Resiliency Factors

different communities (Figure 13), ranging between 9 and 20 years of age. *Inspired Leadership* included young adults in the facilitation team, where they provided input on the process and tool design.

The purpose of this effort was to “map” what a sample of New Mexico youth felt about violence risk and protective factors via focus groups, across five “domains” of an ecological model. The “domains,” or levels of influence in the focus group included: personal, family, friends/peers, school, and community/neighborhood.

Youth participants were asked to:

- 1) determine the level of violence in their community
- 2) rate their level of concern of violence in each domain
- 3) identify violence risk factors in each domain
- 4) identify violence protective factors per domain, and,
- 5) describe steps to address violence within their community.

Most of the participants were Hispanic (Figure 14) and ranged in age between 14 and 18 years of age. Almost half reported a high concern with violence in schools and the community/neighborhood domain. While information related to violence that New Mexico youth experience in their school and community environments remain high, over 60% of young people reported they have little concern with the level of violence within their own peer group. The majority of focus group participants did not feel that they personally contributed to violence.

*Alcohol and drugs were cited*

*in all five domains as a risk factor* (Table 5). Even though gangs and racism showed up as risk factors in at least two of the five domains, neither was observed in the friends or family domains. None of the participants listed themselves as current or former members of a gang. Two-thirds reported little concern with violence among their peers. The group also listed gangs as a risk factor, particularly in the community and school domains. Racism is also a strong concern among the youth and racial tension was identified as a strong reason for violence in schools and community settings.

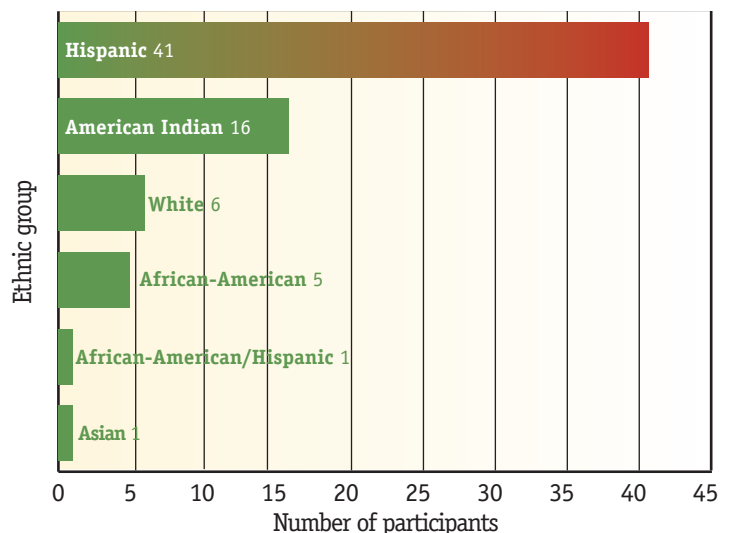
Protective factors proved to be an elusive concept for young people who participated in this effort. However, most youth felt that:

- 1) “Activities” available during the out-of-school time (i.e. sports, church, etc.) were an effective violence protection and prevention strategy.
- 2) Caring relationships with peers and adults were motivating and protective factors.

*Racism is also a strong concern among the youth and racial tension was identified as a strong reason for violence in schools and community settings.*

*“Activities” available during the out-of-school time (i.e. sports, church, etc.) were an effective violence protection and prevention strategy.*

**Figure 14: Ethnic composition of participants in youth “mapping” activities, N.M., June 2005**



Source: *Inspired Leadership*

# III. Risk and Resiliency Factors

- 3) The presence of law enforcement was cited as a protective factor in the school and community

**Table 5. Risk and protective factors, listed by domain, as reported by youth participating in the youth mapping activities conducted by Inspired Leadership, N.M., June, 2005**

DOMAIN	RISK FACTORS	PROTECTIVE FACTORS
<b>Personal</b>	Drugs	Family
	People talking/making fun	Friends
	Low self-esteem	Music
	Family	Meditation, etc.
	Stress	Self-trust/respect
<b>Family</b>	Drugs/alcohol	Trust
	Family disputes	Love
	Money	Communication
	Abuse/domestic violence	Spend time together
	Fighting/arguing	Going out to eat
<b>Friends &amp; Peers</b>	Talking smack, etc. . .	Friendships
	Drugs/alcohol	Communication
	Jealousy	Trust
	Arguments	Family/parents
	Racism	Respect
<b>Schools</b>	Drugs	Sports
	Racism	After school/inschool activities
	Gangs	Teachers
	Talking smack, etc.	School officers
	Fighting	Counselors
<b>Community &amp; Neighborhood</b>	Drugs	Community-based programs
	Gangs	Police
	Poverty/money	Churches
	Racism/haters/stereotyping	Good neighbors
	Arguing/fighting	Sports

domains only; anecdotal information from the facilitators of the activity indicates that this was a stronger factor in rural areas than in urban settings (Albuquerque).

- 4) Youth believed when they were participating in after school activities or programs they were less likely to be a victim or perpetrator of violence.
- 5) Others listed involvement in religious activities as a factor that reduced youth involvement in violent behavior in the community domain.

The report compiled by *Inspired Leadership* is available as a companion document to this statewide assessment.

### Youth Alliance Survey

The New Mexico Youth Alliance is a statewide advisory group comprised of youth representatives, up to one from each legislative district. The Youth Alliance, established in 2003 by Youth Council Act, enables state lawmakers and administrators to create and refine youth policies with the benefit of feedback and recommendations from a statewide cross-section of informed New Mexico youth. It is also a tool for ensuring that youth have a meaningful voice in the state’s political process. The Youth Alliance is comprised of 52 individuals from House and Senate districts throughout New Mexico.

In the summer of 2005, the Youth Alliance membership administered a survey to youth as a means to provide state and local officials with input on issues and policies that impact youth in New Mexico. The questions posed to youth attempted to get an

*Others listed involvement in religious activities as a factor that reduced youth involvement in violent behavior in the community domain.*

### III. Risk and Resiliency Factors

understanding of what issues are relevant to young people and to identify areas of policy or legislative action that affect the positive development of children and youth statewide.

Youth, ages 14 to 24 (Figure 15) were asked to provide their input on a variety of issues and topics. Questions ranged from education, health, violence, out of school time, drugs and alcohol, community participation, suicide, and internet safety. Almost 500 responses to the survey were collected by the end of November 2005.

Most of the youth (85%) who participated in the survey ranged between 14 and 17 years of age (Figure 15). More than one-half (282) of the students were from economically disadvantaged homes as evidence by their eligibility in the free lunch program in public schools. A slightly larger percentage (54%) of respondents was female, and the majority of those responding were Hispanic

(68.5%; Figure 16). More than 57% (285) of the respondents were from rural areas of the state, including Carlsbad, Española, Hobbs, Los Lunas, Portales, Raton, and rural areas adjacent to Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Rio Rancho, and Santa Fe.

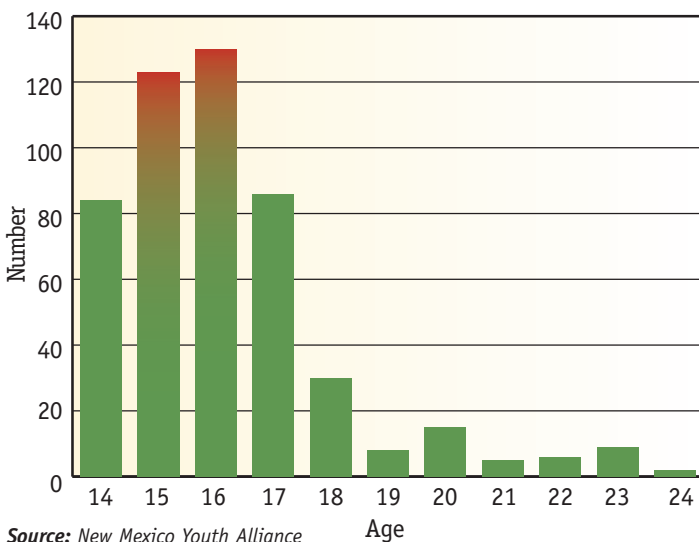
Data (Table 6) indicate that:

- 1) Most of the youth have witnessed bullying at school (64%).
- 2) Nearly 40% reported having been in a fight.
- 3) Almost one-third (31%) had some involvement in gang activity and an equal number had considered or attempted suicide.
- 4) Many report easy access to drugs/alcohol (36–40%) and weapons (33%).
- 5) At least 36% had experimented with drugs at some time.
- 6) More than one-third (38.8%) of youth surveyed had been personally affected by violence

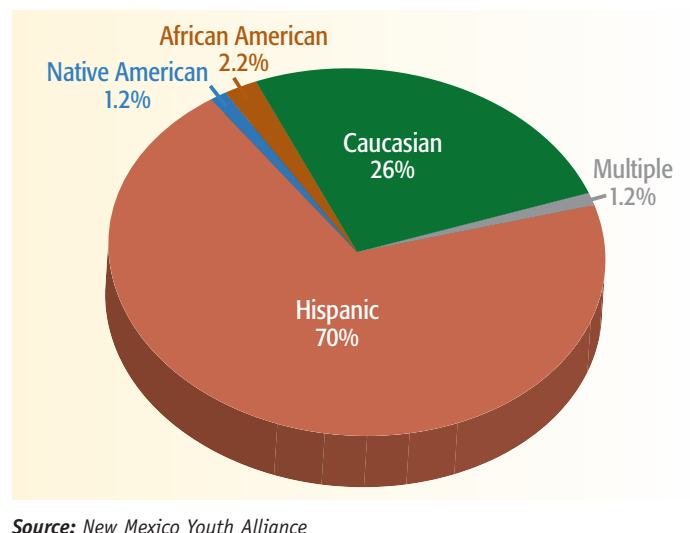
*Most of the youth have witnessed bullying at school (64%).*

*More than one-third (38.8%) of youth surveyed had been personally affected by violence.*

**Figure 15: Age distribution of youth who responded to Youth Alliance survey, N.M., June 2005**



**Figure 16: Ethnic composition of youth who participated in New Mexico Youth Alliance survey, N.M., June 2005**



### III. Risk and Resiliency Factors

**Table 6. Responses from the New Mexico Youth Alliance survey on issues important to youth. Values indicate percentages, N.M., June 2005**

CONCERN/ISSUE	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW
I have easy access to affordable healthcare services	29.6	27.6	12.1	8.7	22.1
I have access to healthy meal choices at school	37.2	37.2	16.1	6.0	3.4
I exercise regularly	35.2	34.8	16.9	8.0	5.0
I often feel stressed out	31.0	31.8	19.9	13.7	3.6
I feel safe and supported with my family/caregivers	51.3	26.2	9.3	6.2	7.0
I feel safe and supported in my community	29.6	36.2	15.7	9.5	9.1
I live with a guardian(s) that are not my original birthparents	8.9	7.6	10.9	68.2	4.4
I feel safe and supported in my school	31.0	36.8	13.1	5.4	13.7
I feel academically prepared for school	28.2	45.3	17.3	4.0	5.2
I have witnessed bullying at my school	37.0	28.8	17.3	10.7	6.2
I have physically been in a fight at school	18.3	27.6	17.3	32.4	4.4
My school provides service learning or internships at school	34.8	32.8	9.1	5.4	17.9
I volunteer in my community	19.3	38.0	22.5	11.5	8.7
My opinion is important to my community	13.9	28.6	25.4	13.7	18.5
There are opportunities for youth in my community to be active	15.1	28.4	20.9	9.3	26.4
I have participated in gang-related activities	12.7	17.7	21.7	37.8	4.8
There are employment opportunities for youth in my community	15.3	40.4	13.9	7.0	23.3
I often get a chance to learn and use job-related skills	12.9	42.9	21.7	7.4	15.3
I am prepared for adult responsibilities	19.1	40.0	27.0	5.6	8.2
I have considered or attempted youth or teenage suicide	10.7	21.5	14.1	40.6	13.1
I often talk about my ideas and things that matter to me	18.5	42.1	21.5	12.7	5.2
Going to college, or post-secondary education, is important to me	48.7	27.8	10.1	8.2	5.2
I have access to drugs and/or alcohol	20.3	17.7	16.5	38.0	7.4
I have experimented with drugs: cocaine, pot, meth., other	16.9	21.1	16.3	38.0	7.6
I have experimented with steroids or banned substances	8.0	11.5	19.7	49.9	10.7
I have access to guns and other weapons	16.3	14.7	18.7	42.9	7.4
I have personally been affected by violence	18.3	20.5	21.9	31.4	7.8
I have been impacted by an act of domestic violence	15.3	16.1	26.2	36.0	6.4
I understand the consequences of drinking at a young age	49.5	32.4	8.5	6.2	3.4
Youth and teen pregnancy is a big issue to me	41.2	30.6	15.3	5.4	7.4
I understand the importance of internet safety for young people	29.0	37.6	13.5	10.5	9.5
I have knowledge about identity theft	17.3	31.8	23.9	15.7	11.3

Source: New Mexico Youth Alliance (Total number of responses=497)

### III. Risk and Resiliency Factors

and also impacted by domestic violence in the home.

With respect to resiliency and/or protective factors, a high percentage of youth indicated the existence of supportive relationships at home (73%), in school (62%) and in the community in general (61%). More than half of those surveyed indicated some level of involvement in volunteerism efforts or other forms of youth engagement; two-thirds (66%) acknowledge the existence of service learning opportunities within the schools. More than 73% felt sufficiently prepared for academic rigors of college and almost three-fourths (72%) have a desire to attend college or other institution of post-secondary education.

Most of the youth indicated they felt safe and supported at home (Figure 17), and almost one-half indicated they felt safe at school. Youth-centric activities (“Dance, Dance, Dance”; Boys and Girls Clubs, Youth Outreach Center) provide safe havens for youth,

according to survey respondents.

Youth reported concerns about their safety around gangs, in the neighborhoods and streets, and at social gatherings (Figure 18). Areas of high traffic (along Central Avenue and near the University in Albuquerque) and unfamiliar or dangerous terrain (along the ditch banks) were mentioned as unsafe zones as well, although to a lesser degree. Almost one-quarter (23%) indicated they didn’t feel safe anywhere in their communities.

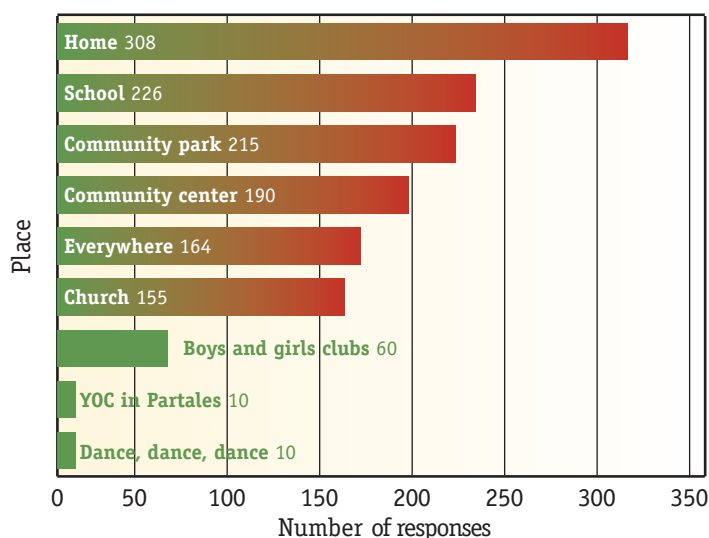
*Almost one-quarter (23%) indicated they didn’t feel safe anywhere in their communities.*

Teen suicides, gangs, as well as drug/alcohol use were among the top concerns for youth surveyed (Figure 19). Nearly 40% of youth surveyed also reported a concern with youth violence and bullying issues. Peer pressure is also among the top concerns for youth surveyed by the Youth Alliance, but bullying in schools was not a concern of high priority.

*Nearly 40% of youth surveyed also reported a concern with youth violence and bullying issues.*

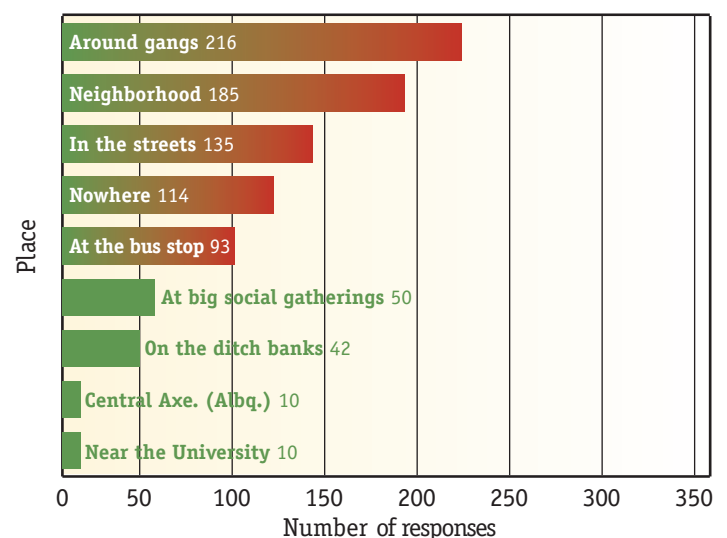
A sample questionnaire distributed by the New Mexico Youth Alliance is provided in Appendix 2.

**Figure 17: Places where youth feel safe and supported, N.M., June 2005**



Source: New Mexico Youth Alliance

**Figure 18: Places where youth feel unsafe in the community spaces, N.M., June 2005**



Source: New Mexico Youth Alliance

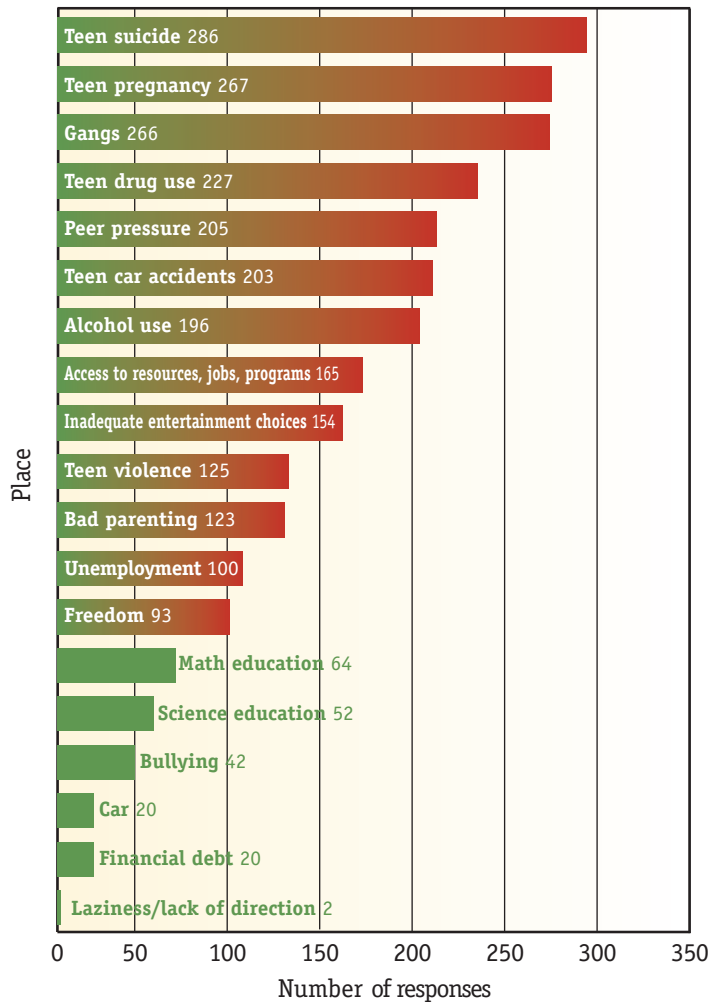
# III. Risk and Resiliency Factors

## Southern Doña Ana Action for Youth Survey

The Southern Doña Ana Action for Youth, a collaborative funded by the Paseo del Norte Health Foundation conducted a survey of 1,547 youth and 270 adults in the Gadsden school district (Gadsden Middle School—261, Gadsden H.S.—955, Santa Theresa H.S.—331). The survey was conducted during the 2003 school year and focused on vital concerns for youth in community.

Responses (Table 7) indicated

**Figure 19: Factors most important to youth N.M., June 2005**



Source: New Mexico Youth Alliance

that a high percentage of youth were concerned with violence (66%) and drug use (83%). A smaller percentage of youth in southern Doña Ana County were concerned with suicide (28%) and sexual abuse/rape (24%). The adults responded similarly to youth, indicating high concerns for violence/gang activity (64%), and drug use by youth (75%).

*A high percentage of youth were concerned with violence (66%) and drug use (83%).*

A sample questionnaire distributed by the SDA Action for Youth is provided in Appendix 3.

**Table 7. Responses from the Southern Doña Ana Action for Youth survey on issues important to youth and adults in the Gadsden school district N.M., 2002–2003**

ISSUE/CONCERN	YOUTH No. & %		ADULT No. & %	
Pregnancy	<b>1202</b>	1.2	<b>143</b>	53.0
Violence/gangs/fights/physical abuse	<b>1023</b>	66.1	<b>172</b>	63.7
Suicide	<b>427</b>	27.6	<b>61</b>	22.6
Pressure to have sexual intercourse	<b>300</b>	19.4	<b>49</b>	18.1
Drug use	<b>1287</b>	83.2	<b>202</b>	74.8
Smoking	<b>463</b>	29.9	<b>61</b>	22.6
Alcohol use	<b>721</b>	46.6	<b>101</b>	37.4
Transportation	<b>176</b>	11.4	<b>18</b>	6.7
Self image/self esteem	<b>249</b>	16.1	<b>43</b>	15.9
Lack of parent or adult involvement in life	<b>318</b>	20.6	<b>85</b>	31.5
Sexual abuse/rape/date rape	<b>379</b>	24.5	<b>63</b>	23.3
Grades	<b>576</b>	37.2	<b>55</b>	20.4
Drops out from school	<b>730</b>	47.2	<b>87</b>	32.2
Lack of things to do (sports and arts activities)	<b>326</b>	21.1	<b>66</b>	24.4
Lack of safe places to hang out/park safely	<b>250</b>	16.2	<b>37</b>	13.7
Graffiti/tagging	<b>391</b>	25.3	<b>49</b>	18.1
Peers not reaching out to peers	<b>73</b>	4.7	<b>16</b>	5.9
Police conflicts	<b>154</b>	10.0	<b>10</b>	3.7
Adult-youth communication	<b>127</b>	8.2	<b>40</b>	14.8

Source: 2003 YRRS statistics Values listed in bold text indicate number of responses by youth and adults (totals=1,547 youth, 270 adults).



# IV. Youth Violence in Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos

*A recent report<sup>11</sup> developed by the American Indian Development Associates (AIDA; Albuquerque, NM), provides insight into the causes and responses to youth crime and violence in five Pueblos of Sandoval county.*

There is a recent body of research on youth violence that is so important, yet so unique to New Mexico that it merits review in a separate section of this assessment. A recent report<sup>11</sup> developed by the American Indian Development Associates (AIDA; Albuquerque, NM), provides insight into the causes and responses to youth crime and violence in five Pueblos of Sandoval county (also known as the Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos, FSIP, located within NMDOH Region 1).

The study utilized a culturally sensitive research design to survey youth and adults in Sandia, Jemez, Zia, Cochiti, and Santa Ana Pueblos. The surveys were designed and conducted in collaboration with tribal councils and other leadership entities within each Pueblo. The survey was distributed to 149 youth; participation was voluntary. The AIDA research also examined information on arrest records to assess the type of crimes committed by youth from the FSIP.

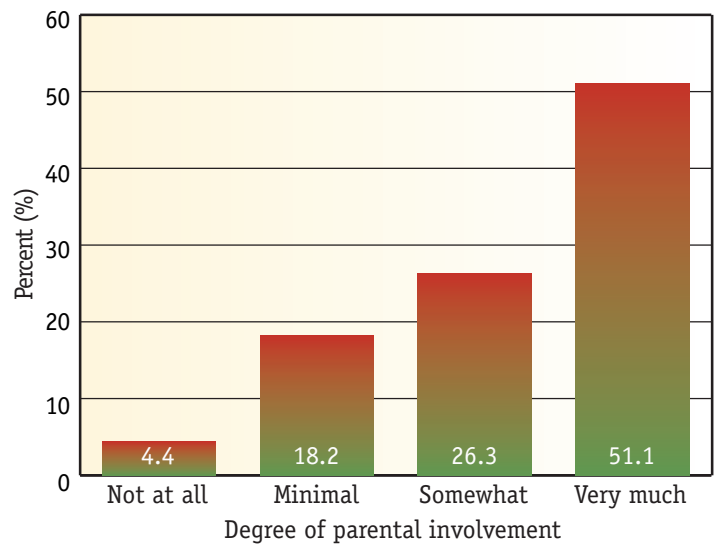
The report highlights traditional (culturally-based) approaches to prevention and intervention that could be integrated in the juvenile justice systems in New Mexico. One of the main concerns of the study was to determine whether Pueblo youth crime “is partly a result of the contradictions inherent in American justice and indigenous justice systems, which when administered concurrently might promote youth alienation from both systems and cultures”<sup>11</sup>. The Pueblo justice system differs greatly from the American system. Most of the Pueblos do not employ judges or allow intervention of criminal lawyers; the tribal councils, which

can include elected officials such as a Governor and Lt. Governor usually preside over criminal cases and also are an integral part of the prevention and intervention mechanisms within Pueblo cultures. Pueblo court proceedings involve immediate and extended family members in the disposition of young offenders. The primary goal of court proceedings is to impose corrective actions that redirect youth behaviors and reintegrate youth as a valued and integral element of the Pueblo community structure. Only as a last resort will the Pueblo refer youth to incarceration in non-Pueblo facilities nearby, and usually only for the most violent offenders.

The survey was distributed to youth from the Pueblos, primarily those who attend two local schools (Bernalillo and Jemez Valley high schools). One-half (50.6%) of those surveyed were young men and all youth surveyed ranged between 14 and 19 years of age. Most of the youth reside with their mothers

*The primary goal of court proceedings is to impose corrective actions that redirect youth behaviors and reintegrate youth as a valued and integral element of the Pueblo community structure.*

**Figure 20: Degree of parental involvement, as reported by youth, N.M., 2005**



Source: Sandoval Indian Pueblos study

# IV. Youth Violence in Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos

and/or female guardian (86%), but a lesser number have a male parent or guardian in the home (59%). A majority of youth surveyed indicated a caring and supportive relationship with family members, (Figure 20) and the existence of strong norms and expectations by their parents.

A large percentage of the youth maintain a high degree of affiliation with Pueblo culture and spiritual practices yet almost one-half claim a “non-Indian or non-traditional” (Anglo) worldview. The scope of participation in specific tribal activities (dance ceremonies, feast days, pow-wows, sweat lodges, etc) varied greatly.

Many of the youth experience problems in schools, including difficulty with paying attention, learning to read, write (Figure 21). Command of the English language posed a problem for one of every five surveyed and nearly 25% of the youth surveyed had repeated a grade in school. Those who

participate in the survey indicated that they had skipped school an average of 6.7 days. Most youth (82%) report not having been the victim of bullying at school, but nearly 44% had participated in the bullying of others.

Almost one-third (31%) of youth have thought about, or planned a suicide, and 10% had attempted suicide. Nearly one-quarter (22%) of the youth surveyed had been involved in one or more fights. A smaller percentage of youth had observed other youth in school with knives (17%) and guns (5%), but a majority (60–73%) reported observing drug and alcohol use by other youth while in school. Regardless, almost 90% of youth surveyed reported that they felt safe in school.

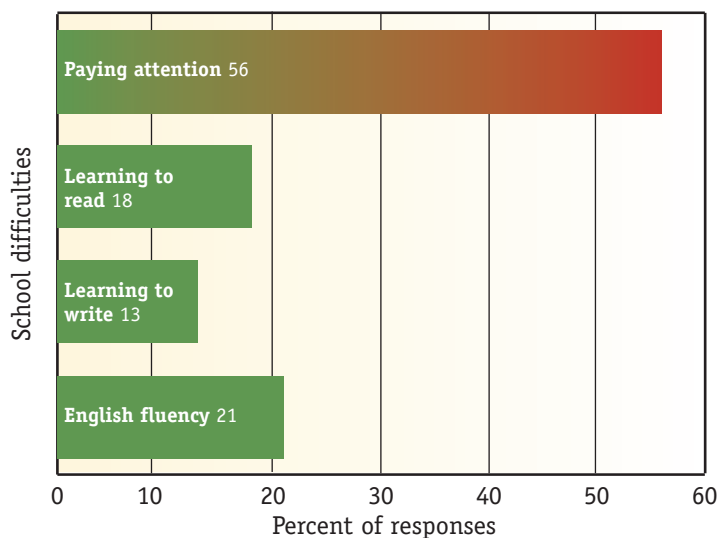
Alcohol and drug use is high. Youth reported more than 90% of their friends drink alcohol, and an almost equal amount of their friends smoke marijuana (Figure 22). A high percentage of the youth surveyed consumed alcohol and 72% indicated that beer is easily accessible. More than three-fourths of the respondents had used other drugs. On the average, youth indicated their first experience with drugs occurred at age 13. Exposure to “negative” media is also listed as a risk factor for Pueblo youth.

On the average, each youth reported having a friend who was involved in a violent crime. The concerns extend beyond the peer level of influence; a high percentage (80.4%) reported having a relative involved in illegal activity. For those Pueblo youth who have been arrested, the

*Most youth (82%) report not having been the victim of bullying at school.*

*On the average, each youth reported having a friend who was involved in a violent crime.*

**Figure 21: Pueblo youth reporting specific problems in school that contribute to academic setbacks, N.M., 2005**



Source: Sandoval Indian Pueblos study

# IV. Youth Violence in Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos

average age at arrest was 19 years of age, although mostly for drug/alcohol infractions. However, violence was listed as a co-factor in 24% of juvenile arrests. Young men comprise the majority (76%) of Pueblo youth who had been arrested and almost one-fourth (22%) of young men arrested were involved in violence.

*There is a general concern among youth about the increasing influence by, and influx of gang activity from neighboring population centers.*

There is a general concern among youth about the increasing influence by, and influx of gang activity from neighboring population centers (Albuquerque). Issues of race and racism also may be a factor. Over 37% cited concerns with racism and some reported discrimination for not being “full-blooded Indians.”

More than 87% of the youth reported being “very” or “quite” happy, but a high percentage also report a high level of stress in their lives (84%). School and family concerns are the most prevalent contributors to stress among Pueblo youth surveyed. Regardless, most (93%) of the youth surveyed plan to finish high school, and at least 22% plan to continue their education through attainment of a bachelor’s degree.

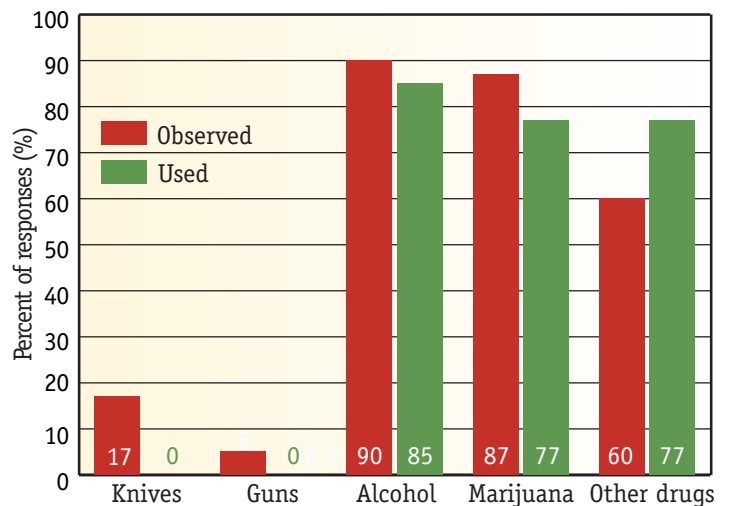
*Addressing youth violence among Native American populations in New Mexico requires culturally-appropriate measures that are designed and implemented in collaboration with tribal leadership.*

Addressing youth violence among Native American populations in New Mexico requires culturally-appropriate measures that are designed and implemented in collaboration with tribal leadership. Pueblo residents desire comprehensive approaches that include consideration of youth, parental, cultural, community, and systemic factors. “Youth from rural and tribal communities are disconnected from families and local services providers when incarcerated”<sup>11</sup>, further removing

them from the traditional tribal interventions or culturally-relevant care. Thus, the “community” considerations must be factored into long term solutions.

Socio-economic opportunities and other resource deficiencies in tribal communities must also be addressed to help reduce the incidence of youth violence from the Pueblos. External service providers require training in culturally competent practices. The study suggests that culturally based systems will establish better opportunities to resolve youth issues while requiring fewer resources over extended periods.

**Figure 20: Youth who used, or have observed peers using weapons, alcohol, and drugs (no data on self-reported used of weapons), N.M., 2005**



Source: Sandoval Indian Pueblos study

# V. Community Readiness/Survey Data

In collaboration with ATODA (alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse) prevention efforts in New Mexico, NMDOH staff conducted a survey on prevention readiness in communities throughout the state. Key informants throughout the state were asked to report the existence of programming or policies related to substance abuse and youth violence prevention efforts in their communities. Participants were asked to complete and return a questionnaire by email. Follow-up telephone calls were made to encourage participation, and 146 participants completed the questionnaire during those telephone calls. The survey was conducted in the summer of 2005, with representatives from community health councils, county DWI councils, Safe Schools programs at the school district level, and other groups receiving grants from the state for substance abuse prevention, suicide prevention, violence prevention, and teen pregnancy prevention. Data below represent results from the telephone surveys.

## Family Based Strategies and Programming

Regarding family-based strategies and programming, fewer opportunities were identified for youth violence prevention efforts, in comparison with substance abuse remediation efforts (Figure 23). More than half of respondents denied the existence, or were unaware of efforts directed at youth violence. Only 41% of respondents reported awareness of youth violence prevention programming in their respective communities, compared with nearly 70% who were aware of

substance abuse services for youth. Nearly one-third (31%) of respondents didn't know if there were any community programs or services dedicated to the prevention of youth violence, pointing to the need for additional marketing of programs already in place.

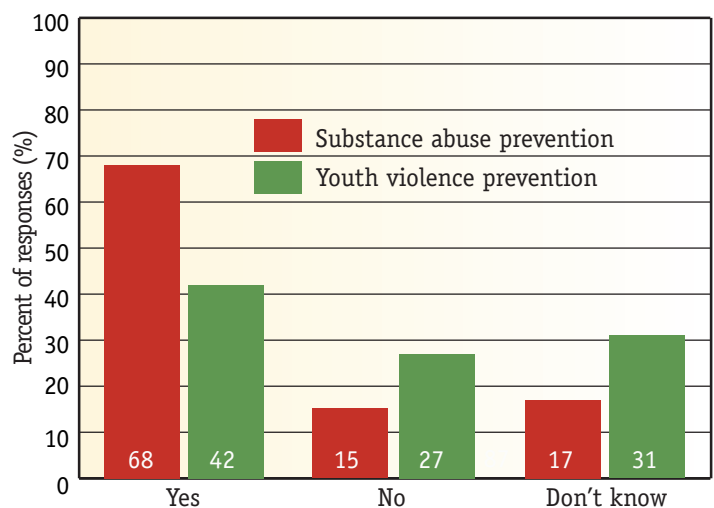
## School-Based Policies

Only 55% of key informants recognize the existence of school-based policies and activities that discourage youth violence on campuses (Figure 24). These efforts are primarily the result of direct action policies (i.e., suspensions, dismissal) for participation in violent activities (fighting, gangs, etc.). Additionally, a greater level of outreach in the school systems that focus on anti-bullying activities has been realized in recent years. However, the existence of school-based policies is much less prominent than efforts aimed at reducing substance abuse in the schools. School policing efforts that

*Nearly one-third (31%) of respondents didn't know if there were any community programs or services dedicated to the prevention of youth violence.*

*Only 55% of key informants recognize the existence of school-based policies and activities that discourage youth violence on campuses.*

**Figure 23: Community awareness regarding existence of services and/or programs, youth substance abuse vs. youth violence prevention, N.M., 2005**



Source: NMDOH. N=146 responses

focus on substance abuse are much more visible and have been in effect for a much longer period of time (at least 40 years).

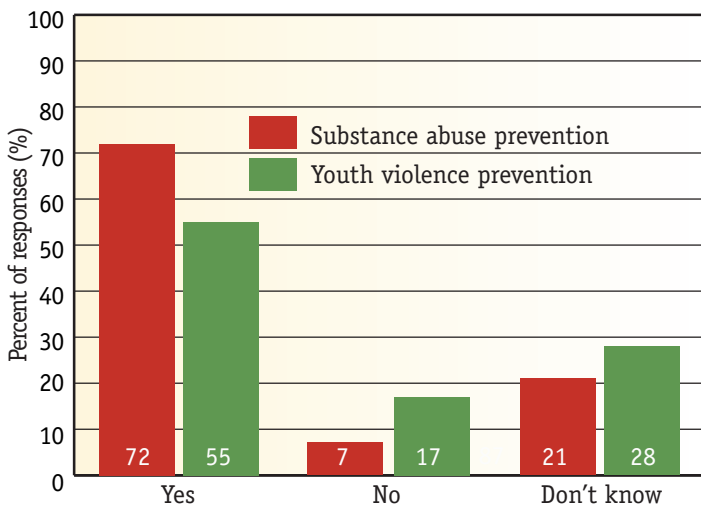
### Adequacy of Prevention Resources

*There is a wide disparity in available resources for youth violence prevention efforts.*

There is a wide disparity in available resources for youth violence prevention efforts. Only 29% of individuals surveyed are aware of the existence of any resources for youth violence prevention, compared to 64% who reported the existence of resources for substance abuse programming (Figure 25).

The CDC reported the need for additional resources in New Mexico and thus funded a two year planning study, which required this statewide assessment on youth violence. The CDC grant will also provide a means for development of a statewide partnership that will formulate a strategic plan to deal with youth violence concerns.

**Figure 24:** Knowledge of school-based policies, youth substance abuse vs. youth violence prevention, N.M., 2005



Source: NMDOH. N=146 responses

### Barriers to Prevention Efforts

Key informants were asked to identify the most prevalent barriers to prevention efforts in New Mexico (Figure 26):

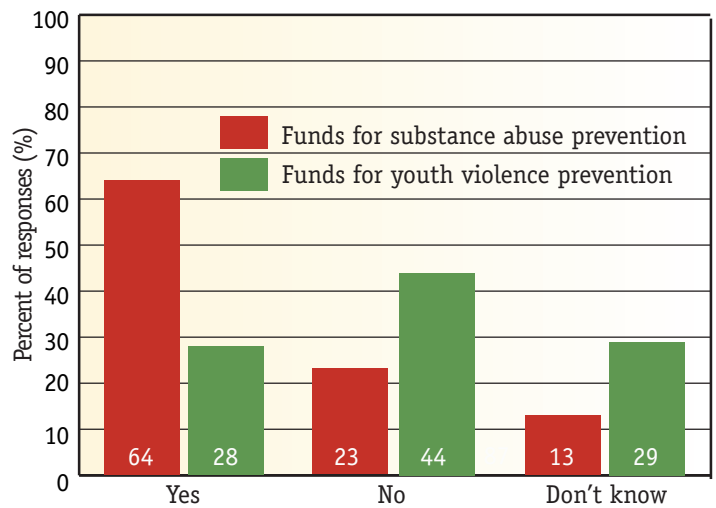
- 1) Lack of awareness on the subject and geography/distance were the greatest concerns.
- 2) New Mexico is considered a “frontier” state, with a high number of rural communities dispersed across a diverse and rugged landscape.

*Lack of awareness on the subject and geography/distance were the greatest concerns.*

Additionally, New Mexico contains a number of other factors that limit collaboration towards prevention efforts, including:

- 3) Cultural and language differences.
- 4) A higher population of Native Americans, compared with other states.
- 5) High number of immigrants and others who do not speak English as their primary language.

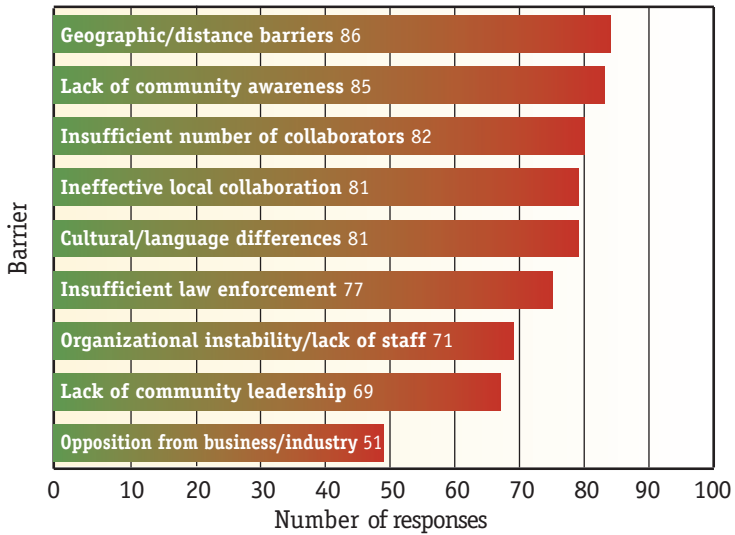
**Figure 25:** Adequacy of federal resources/funds for youth violence prevention efforts, compared to substance abuse activities, N.M., 2005



Source: NMDOH. N=146 responses

# V. Community Readiness/Survey Data

**Figure 26: Barriers to prevention efforts in communities, as identified by key informants throughout the state in a 2005 telephone survey, N.M., 2005**



Source: NMDOH. N=150

At least one-third of respondents indicated opposition to prevention efforts by business and industrial concerns in New Mexico, however no data was collected that justifies these observations. Prevention and enforcement costs can be extremely high, especially considering the geographic barriers and cultural diversity challenges in the state. Relatively few individuals cited competition for resources as a reason for lack of collaboration among professionals dealing with the problems of youth violence in the state.

*Prevention and enforcement costs can be extremely high, especially considering the geographic barriers and cultural diversity challenges in the state.*

A scan of New Mexico statutes indicates that 25 of the 90 chapters of the New Mexico Statutes and Court Rules contain provisions relating to youth and adolescent violence concerns. Most of these provisions however pertain to crimes against children and youth. Most of the state policies relating to violence and violence prevention for children, youth and adolescents indicates fall within under the purview of the New Mexico Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH). Additional provisions are maintained by the New Mexico Public Education Department with respect to violence and violence prevention in schools.

## State Agencies

The New Mexico Children’s Code (NMSA 32A-1-1, 1978) empowers the CYFD with authority to enact regulations regarding:

- safety and disposition of children at risk of injury or abuse
- develop standards of service related to children and youth prevention and intervention activities
- implementation of prevention and intervention initiatives
- strengthening collaboration and coordination of state and local service delivery efforts
- implementation of mental/behavioral health prevention and intervention activities (including substance abuse) throughout the state.

The Children, Youth and Families Department is comprised

of 13 divisions, six of which focus on specific areas of the Children’s Code, including:

- Juvenile Justice Services
- Family Services
- Protective Services
- Children’s Behavioral Health
- Foster Care and Adoptions
- Constituency Affairs

The New Mexico Department of Health maintains responsibility for additional prevention and intervention activities through several departmental offices, including:

- Behavioral Health Services Division
- Division of Health Improvement
- Public Health Division
- Developmental Disabilities Support Division
- Division of Epidemiology and Response
  - Injury and Behavioral Epidemiology Bureau

This assessment on youth violence was conducted through the Office of Injury Prevention, an initiative of the NMDOH Epidemiology and Response Division.

A review of CYFD and NMDOH administrative rulings may provide additional information regarding statewide policies regarding youth violence and violence prevention. It is expected that a comprehensive review of departmental administrative rules will be completed as part of the strategic planning process.

*This assessment on youth violence was conducted through the Office of Injury Prevention, an initiative of the NMDOH Epidemiology and Response Division.*

# VI. Policy Assessment

## New Mexico Children’s Cabinet

In 2003, Governor Bill Richardson established the Children’s Cabinet via Executive Order. Chaired by Lt. Governor Diane Denish, the Children’s Cabinet focuses on inter-departmental coordination of activities that pertain to children and youth as well as to facilitate an integrated and systems-wide approach to prevention and intervention activities throughout New Mexico. The Cabinet was specifically created to oversee and coordinate cross-departmental efforts that include, but are not limited to:

- Promoting and establishing comprehensive policies that impact children and youth.
- Assessing and maximizing resource allocation for wellbeing of children and youth in NM.
- Removing administrative barriers to obtaining departmental services and assistance.
- Tracking New Mexico indicators concerning child and youth well-being.
- Encouraging partnerships that elevate the conversations, expertise, research, and action regarding New Mexico’s Children and Youth.

The Children’s Cabinet consists of representatives from:

- Public Education Department
- Department of Health
- Human Services Department
- Children, Youth, and Families Department

- Aging and Long Term Care
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Public Safety
- Economic Development Department
- Department of Labor
- Department of Finance and Administration
- Department of Cultural Affairs
- Commission on Higher Education
- Office of African American Affairs
- Indian Affairs Department
- Judicial Representation
- Taxation and Revenue Department

Since it was established, the Children’s Cabinet helped establish the Youth Alliance, a statewide youth advisory council (through the Youth Council Act of 2003), developed a list of statewide benchmarks, commonly known as the Children’s Cabinet Outcomes (Table 8).

*Since it was established, the Children’s Cabinet helped establish the Youth Alliance, a statewide youth advisory council (through the Youth Council Act of 2003).*

**Table 8. New Mexico Children’s Cabinet Outcomes**

All children and Youth in New Mexico will be:

1. Safe in their families and communities.
2. Physically and mentally healthy.
3. Well-educated and provided with opportunities to reach their full potential.
4. Become productive, self-sufficient and employable adults.
5. Valued contributors to their community through civic responsibility, connection, and being culturally and linguistically enriched.



### New Statutes and Prevention Efforts

There is an increasing focus on ensuring the safety and well-being of children and youth in New Mexico, and a corresponding increase in policy changes to support prevention and intervention activities. For the most part, the state legislature provides funding to direct service providers through capital outlay funds for specific programs throughout the state. The New Mexico legislature is considered a “citizen legislature”, allowing individuals or groups to forward legislation with the support of their elected representatives.

In 2005, several legislative bills were introduced that focused on reducing youth violence and/or increasing statewide prevention efforts. A legislative bill (SB867) was introduced in the Senate to request \$710,000 in funding for statewide youth violence prevention programs, to be coordinated through the “Stop the Violence” program at Eastern New Mexico University and supported by an organization named the New Mexico Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). Senate Bill 867 died in committee however, primarily because it competed with specific provisions of the General Appropriations Act, including anti-gang efforts supported by the

Governor (originally included in the general appropriations bills, but not included in the final legislation).

The FCCLA has indicated that they will attempt to have the legislation reintroduced in the 2006 legislative session. Additionally, the Governor has indicated that he will continue to forward his anti-gang legislation in 2006, which requests nearly \$430,000 in appropriations for a gang intervention pilot program, development of a state gang task force, development of a statewide gang database, and implementation of a public awareness campaign aimed at reducing youth participation in gangs. The proposed legislation would also call for harsher penalties for involvement in gangs.

There is developing momentum for future efforts aimed at reducing the incidences of youth-related violence in New Mexico through support of prevention, intervention and outreach activities. The NMDOH is poised to lead the efforts with the support of the VFYP and the New Mexico Children’s Cabinet. Additionally, through its connection with the Children’s Cabinet, the New Mexico Youth Alliance is encouraging and facilitating youth support of violence remediation efforts.

# VII. Resource Inventory

There are two components of the resource inventory as identified in this assessment. Pending development of The Violence-Free Youth Partnership (VFYP) will establish an organizational resource for developing strategies towards youth violence prevention in New Mexico. Some synergy around the VFYP has occurred and numerous convenings have already taken place. The second component of the resource inventory is a description of the programs and services available to youth in New Mexico to respond to issues of youth violence. A description of the VFYP components and the program service listing is provided below.

## Violence-Free Youth Partnership

A priority of New Mexico's youth violence prevention efforts includes development of a statewide coalition of public and private partners, the VFYP. This collaborative will convene regularly to develop violence prevention strategies and highlight outreach efforts. Through October of 2005, the Violence Free Youth Partnership met on three occasions, in the three major urban settings (Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Las Cruces). Previous meetings were also broadcast via teleconference and outreach efforts (including meetings, reports and other correspondence) involved individuals from nearly 50 organizations, including:

- Albuquerque Public Schools
- Belen Consolidated Schools
- Children Youth and Families Dept.
- Coalition Against Domestic Violence

- Communities Against Violence
- Communities That Care
- Court Youth Center
- Eastern New Mexico University
- Families and Youth, Inc.
- Futures for Youth
- Inspired Leadership
- International Center for Nonviolent Communication
- CYFD Juvenile Justice Program
- Las Vegas Domestic Violence Shelter
- National Indian Health Services
- New Hopeful Gospel Baptist Church
- New Mexico Civic Engagement
- New Mexico Community Foundation
- New Mexico Corrections Department
- New Mexico Department of Health
  - Epidemiology and Response Division, Injury and Behavioral Epidemiology Bureau, Office of Injury Prevention
  - Public Health Division, Office of School Health
  - Public Health Division, Region 5, Health Promotion Team
- New Mexico Forum for Youth in Community
- New Mexico Network for Nonviolent Communication
- New Mexico Public Education Department
- New Mexico Voices for Children
- North Central Community Based Services
- Nterlink Consulting

- Office of D’Nai Youth
- Raindancer Youth Services (Ruidoso)
- Raton Recreation and Education Council
- Raton Suicide Center
- Santa Fe Boys School
- Santa Fe County Home for Good Program
- Santa Fe Mountain Center
- Santa Fe Public Schools
- Senator Jeff Bingaman’s office
- SER de New Mexico
- SER Jobs for Progress
- Service Organization for Youth (Raton)
- Sierra County Youth and Education Council
- Teambuilders Counseling
- The Non-Traditional Leadership Institute
- The Wellness Coalition (Silver City)
- University of New Mexico
- UNM Community Engagement
- Workforce Connection
- Youth Development, Inc.

The New Mexico Violence Free Youth Partnership will convene to develop the statewide strategic plan and additional activities will be initiated at a special convening in conjunction with the New Mexico Forum for Youth in Community (NMFYC) Youth Practitioner Summit, December 14–16, 2005. Additional partners will be identified to participate in ongoing strategic planning activities.

The New Mexico Forum for

Youth in Community, a statewide liaison dedicated to the support of youth development practices and youth policy concerns, will also utilize its “network of networks” to ensure engagement of community partners and stakeholders throughout New Mexico.

The Violence-Free Youth Partnership will also establish working groups and a developing coalition of public and private partners that are collaborating towards development of a comprehensive strategic plan for reducing the incidence of violence perpetrated by and against youth in New Mexico. The goals of the working groups are to facilitate data collection and analysis as a means for the statewide coalition to make informed decisions in the strategic planning process during 2005–2006. Currently, the VFYP has identified the need to establish the following working groups:

- Current programs and indicators
- Policy assessment
- Data source assessment
- Surveys
- Underserved populations

### State Programs, Services and Other Resources

One of the most comprehensive and descriptive inventories of programs and services in the state is compiled by the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department, Juvenile Justice Division (JJD). The inventory is available to the public via an online searchable database<sup>12</sup> that can provide information on local, regional or statewide programs and services according to several categories:

# VII. Resource Inventory

**Table 9. Number of programs or organizations by county as identified by the CYFD Juvenile Justice Program Inventory, N.M.**

REGION*	COUNTY	% YOUTH POP. (<25)	NO. OF PROGRAMS	NO. UNIQUE TO COUNTY
1	Cibola	40.3	22	3
1	McKinley	47.7	28	7
1	Sandoval	37.1	50	22
1	San Juan	42.7	51	27
1	Valencia	38.5	34	9
2	Colfax	31.1	23	3
2	Guadalupe	33.6	15	0
2	Los Alamos	30.1	21	3
2	Mora	34.2	20	1
2	Rio Arriba	37.4	36	7
2	San Miguel	38.3	25	3
2	Santa Fe	32.2	45	16
2	Taos	31.4	28	8
2	Union	33.6	20	2
3	Bernalillo	35.7	119	0
4	Chavez	38.4	22	9
4	Curry	41.6	23	4
4	De Baca	29.8	14	0
4	Eddy	37.2	21	8
4	Harding	24.8	14	2
4	Lea	40.2	26	14
4	Quay	31.6	18	1
4	Roosevelt	43.0	20	1
5	Catron	25.3	16	0
5	Doña Ana	43.0	22	17
5	Grant	34.8	26	3
5	Hidalgo	39.5	17	0
5	Lincoln	28.8	21	4
5	Luna	37.6	26	3
5	Otero	38.7	27	9
5	Sierra	25.5	16	3
5	Socorro	41.0	21	5
5	Torrance	37.8	20	9

**Sources:** New Mexico Department of Health, KidsCount database, CYFD Juvenile Justice Program Inventory. The number of “unique” programs indicates programs or organizations specific to that county only (i.e., a program that does not serve populations in any other county).

- **Service Type:** Advocacy, Education, Family, First Offender, Legal, Mental Health, Physical Health, Placement, Prevention and Early Intervention, Recreation, Residential Treatment, Sex Offender, Skills, and Substance Abuse.
- **Location** (City, County, or CYFD District).
- **Client Population:** General Juvenile Focus, Youth Referred for Non-delinquent Offenses, Non-adjudicated Youth, Adjudicated Youth on Probation or Parole, Adjudicated Youth under Commitment, Abused/Neglected, At-Risk, Runaway, CHINS/FINS.

Data is organized according to NM Department of Health service regions (see map, Figure 13). As of November 2005, the database listed a total of 481 organizations or specific locations for services to youth (or families) at risk of being affected by youth violence concerns. Some of these provide services directed to a specific public health concern (e.g., AIDS prevention) yet are listed because of ancillary or collateral activities that are related to juvenile justice and/or youth violence concerns.

Statewide, numerous organizations listed in the JJD inventory serve populations in multiple counties. Table 9 provides a summary of programs by county, cross-referenced with information on youth composition of the population. Only Region 3 (Bernalillo county) does not contain any programs that are unique to that county. This is because the region includes the Albuquerque Metro area which includes the cities of Rio Rancho

## VII. Resource Inventory

and Bernalillo (Sandoval county) as well as Los Lunas (Valencia county) which are located in Region 1, and east mountain communities which are located in Sandoval, Santa Fe, and Torrance counties.

Generally speaking, Region 1 (NW) is comprised of a greater percentage of Native Americans (compared to other regions) while higher percentages of Hispanics are found in Region 2 (NE) and Region 5 (SW).

Additional information on programs and services in New Mexico is compiled by the New Mexico Department of Health via the Southwest Centers for Application of Prevention Technologies (Southwest CAPT) website.<sup>13</sup> This inventory primarily provides data directed at alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse (ATODA) prevention efforts; however, many of prevention service providers in New Mexico maintain programming that focuses on multiple risk factors for youth, including violence-related issues.

Most programs are located near urban centers (Bernalillo, Sandoval, and Santa Fe counties), but the counties with the fewest services appear to be geographically distributed in the southern part of the state (Table 10). The number of programs in each county has no verifiable correlation with the poverty ranking for specific counties.

Information is scarce with respect to prevention programming and services available to Native American communities in Pueblos and reservations.

**Table 10. Number of programs or organizations by county (ranked according to poverty statistics), N.M.**

COUNTY	% POP. IN POVERTY	STATE RANK BY POVERTY	NO. OF PROGRAMS
Luna	47%	1	26
Socorro	44%	2	21
Doña Ana	43%	3	22
McKinley	42%	4	28
Hidalgo	39%	5	17
Cibloa	32%	6	22
Sierra	32%	6	16
Harding	31%	7	14
Union	31%	7	20
Chavez	29%	8	22
Lea	28%	9	26
Otero	28%	9	27
San Miguel	28%	9	25
San Juan	27%	10	51
Grant	26%	11	26
Mora	26%	11	20
Curry	25%	12	23
Lincoln	25%	12	21
Quay	25%	12	18
Roosevelt	25%	12	20
Taos	25%	12	28
Torrance	25%	12	20
Guadalupe	24%	13	15
Catron	23%	14	16
De Baca	23%	14	14
Rio Arriba	23%	14	36
Eddy	22%	15	21
Valencia	22%	15	34
Colfax	21%	16	23
Bernalillo	18%	17	119
Sandoval	16%	18	20
Santa Fe	15%	19	45
Los Alamos	2%	20	21

Sources: New Mexico Department of Health, KidsCount database, CYFD Juvenile Justice Program Inventory

## VIII. Conclusion

*Socio-economic factors (poverty), geography of the state, and multi-cultural issues (including language barriers) contribute to the challenges of reducing youth violence in the state.*

The rates of youth violence in New Mexico are much higher than most other states, and continue to increase. Youth in the state exhibit a high number of risk factors, including elevated rates of alcohol and drug use as well as access to firearms. Socio-economic factors (poverty), geography of the state, and multi-cultural issues (including language barriers) contribute to the challenges of reducing youth violence in the state. Although the majority of the state population resides within a short distance of the major population centers (Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Santa Fe), New Mexico is a “frontier” state, comprised of mostly rural communities. The distance, topography and areas of low population density provide challenges to effective service delivery. There are isolated sub-sectors of the Hispanic and Native American populations throughout the state that pose additional challenges to comprehensive service delivery. Additionally, no exhaustive research has been completed on the short and long-term costs (direct or indirect) of youth violence in New Mexico.

Programs that have demonstrated impact in reducing interpersonal violence will also reduce the high rates of homicide and suicide among youth, but little coordination exists for statewide prevention efforts. Adequate resources for immediate interventions do not exist.

Regardless, momentum is developing for future efforts aimed at reducing the incidence of youth-related violence in New Mexico through support of prevention, intervention and outreach

activities. The New Mexico Department of Health is poised to lead the youth violence prevention efforts with the support of the VFYP and the New Mexico Children’s Cabinet. The New Mexico Department of Health has already initiated a comprehensive assessment as part of a two-year planning grant provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Policy makers are supportive of youth and youth serving organizations. Recent legislation established the Children’s Trust Fund and the Next Generation Fund. These endowments will provide resources for youth services and programming in the years to come, but significant returns are not expected for another twenty years. In 2006, the legislature and the Governor will consider implementation of Individual Development Accounts (IDA) with matching funds backed by the state treasury to reduce the incidence of poverty among the poorest in the state.

The New Mexico Forum for Youth in Community was established to promote best practices and build capacity for non-governmental organizations to build on the field of positive youth development in the state. This organization is already collaborating with the New Mexico Department of Health in the development of a statewide coalition known as the Violence-Free Youth Partnership.

The Violence-Free Youth Partnership is rapidly increasing membership, drawing on individuals from a diverse collection of public/private

*The New Mexico Forum for Youth in Community was established to promote best practices and build capacity for non-governmental organizations to build on the field of positive youth development in the state.*

## VIII. Conclusion

---

partners and service providers, including those from tribal entities. The Violence-Free Youth Partnership will convene in the coming months to establish a comprehensive strategic plan that will establish integrated prevention and intervention mechanisms to reduce the incidence of violence among children and youth in New Mexico.

## IX. References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2004. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online].)
2. New Mexico Department of Health, 2004. New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey: 2003 Report of State Results.
3. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2003. Transition to Adulthood: SAMHSA Helps Vulnerable Youth. SAMHSA News, Volume XI, Number 1, 2003. [online]. ([http://alt.samhsa.gov/samhsa\\_news/VolumeXI\\_1/article5.htm](http://alt.samhsa.gov/samhsa_news/VolumeXI_1/article5.htm)).
4. Davis, M., 1996. The Transition to Adulthood Among Adolescents Who Have Serious Emotional Disturbance. A report to The National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness, Policy Research Associates, Inc., Delmar, NY (under contract to Child, Adolescent, and Family Branch; Homeless Programs Branch; Center for Mental Health Services; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Rockville, MD. April 1996
5. World Health Organization, 2005. The Violence Prevention Alliance. [online]. (<http://www.who.int/violenceprevention/>).
6. National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center, 2001. [online]. (<http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/facts/risk.asp#eco>)
7. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2001. Youth Violence: A Report of the Surgeon General. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services; and National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health.
8. Resnick, M.D. & Rinehart, P.M. (2004). Influencing Behavior: The Power of Protective Factors in Reducing Youth Violence. Center for Adolescent Health and Development, University of Minnesota.
9. Resnick, M.D., M. Ireland, and I. Borowsky, 2004. Youth violence perpetration: What protects? What predicts? Findings from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 35: 424.e1-424.e10.
10. Rael, R. and H. Vann, 2005. Youth Violence Risk and Protective Factors. A report to the New Mexico Department of Health, Epidemiology and Response Division, Office of Injury Prevention (CDC ESCAPe Grant # U17/CCU624342-01) by Inspired Leadership. Albuquerque, NM.
11. Melton, A.P., 2005. Understanding the causes and responses to Pueblo youth crime and violence. Report to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention. American Indian Development Associates.
12. New Mexico Juvenile Justice Program Inventory, 2005. [online]. (<http://www.nmsc.state.nm.us/inventory/>).
13. Southwest Centers for Application of Prevention Technologies, 2005. [online]. (<http://captus.samhsa.gov/southwest/SWCAPTNew.cfm>)



# X. Acknowledgements

The information contained herein was compiled through the collaborative efforts of numerous dedicated individuals. The final document was compiled by Nterlink Consulting. Without the assistance of the individuals below, this assessment could not have been completed. We wish to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations.

**American Indian Development Associates:**

Ada Pecos Melton

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:**

ESCAPE Grant #U17/CCU624342-01

**Inspired Leadership:**

Monica Cordova  
Nakya Estrada  
Roberta Rael  
Harold Vann

**New Mexico Children Youth and Families Department:**

Rebecca Ballantine  
Bernie Teba

**New Mexico Forum for Youth in Community:**

Mike Garcia  
Everette Hill  
Robyn Kelley  
Lanny Leyba  
Frank Mirabal  
Renee Paisano-Trujillo  
Carol Saiz

**New Mexico Department of Health:**

Steve Adelsheim  
Joe Baca  
Kris Carrillo  
Barbara Chatterjee  
Yolanda Cordova  
Michael Courtney  
Karen Gaylord  
Dan Green  
Wayne Honey  
Ajoy Kumar  
Michael Landen  
Don Maestas  
John McPhee  
Tessa Medina-Lucero  
Gil Padilla  
Geraldo Rivera  
Isaac Romero  
Steve Schan  
Saumitra SenGupta  
Bonnie Taylor  
Karen White  
Leona Woelk

**Nterlink Consulting:**

Laura Bishop  
Michael Brown  
Eduardo Martinez

**Southern Doña Ana Action for Youth:**

April Stamper

**Southwest Centers for the Application of Prevention Technologies (SWCAPT):**

Paula Feathers

**APS:** Albuquerque Public Schools System.

**ATODA:** Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (focus of prevention efforts in the New Mexico Department of Health, Behavioral Health Services Division).

**BHSD:** Behavioral Health Services Division, New Mexico Department of Health.

**Bullying:** A willful, conscious effort by one or more individuals to hurt another and put him/her under stress.

**CDC:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Children's Cabinet:** The New Mexico Children's Cabinet. An inter-departmental coordination of activities that pertain to children and youth as well as to facilitate an integrated and systems-wide approach to prevention and intervention activities throughout New Mexico

**CHINS/FINS:** Children in Need of Supervision/Families in Need of Services.

**Crack:** slang reference for variant of cocaine.

**CYFD:** Children, Youth and Families Department (New Mexico).

**Ecological Model:** Framework identified by the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that specifies five "levels of influence" or "domains" (personal, family, peers/ friends, school, and community) in which violence risk and resiliency (protective) factors are assessed.

**Ecstasy:** slang reference for a "designer" drug commonly used by

teens and young adults; also known as MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine).

**ERD:** Epidemiology and Response Division (New Mexico Department of Health).

**ESCAPE:** Enhancing State Capacity to Address Child and Adolescent Health through Violence Prevention, a CDC initiative.

**FCCLA:** New Mexico Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), an organization that has established the "Stop the Violence" program through Eastern New Mexico University.

**Haters:** slang term used by teens and young adults to reference others who are anti-social or "hate everything".

**JJD:** Juvenile Justice Division, New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department.

**JJPI:** Juvenile Justice Program Inventory.

**METH:** abbreviation for Methamphetamine.

**NM:** New Mexico.

**NMCE:** New Mexico Civic Engagement, a youth and young adult program administered through the University of New Mexico Community Learning and Public Service Department.

**NMDOH:** New Mexico Department of Health.

**NMFYC:** New Mexico Forum for Youth in Community, a statewide intermediary dedicated to support of Youth and Youth Practitioners via capacity-building, training, technical assistance, and youth-centric policy development.

**NMSA:** New Mexico Statutory Authority; NMSA codes are used to identify current or former laws enacted by the state legislature.

**OIP:** Office of Injury Prevention (Epidemiology and Response Division, New Mexico Department of Health).

**PED:** New Mexico Public Education Department.

**Protective Factor:** Commonly used term that is synonymous with resiliency factor (below).

**Resiliency Factor:** Activities or behaviors that diminish the risks of individuals to be involved in violent, or other negative behaviors and/or events.

**Risk Factor:** Activities or attributes that increase the opportunities for an individual to be victimized, and also to become a perpetrator of violent behavior.

**SAMHSA:** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).

**SDA Action for Youth:** Southern Doña Ana Action for Youth, a youth advocacy collaborative that focuses on youth concerns along the border regions of New Mexico (Doña Ana County).

**VPA:** Violence Prevention Alliance of the World Health Organization.

**WHO:** World Health Organization.

**YA:** Youth Alliance, a corpus of youth established to provide, and highlight, youth voice regarding programming and policy development issues in New Mexico. Established by the state legislature in 2004 and maintained by the New Mexico Forum for Youth in Community, the Youth Alliance reports directly to the Children's Cabinet and the state legislature.

**Youth Violence:** Any aggressive behaviors that may result in injury or death committed by and against youth, specifically, child maltreatment, youth suicide, sexual violence, school violence, bullying, community violence, and teen dating violence/domestic violence for ages 0-24, addressed within individual, interpersonal, community or social levels.

**YRRS:** Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey. A comprehensive survey of youth in New Mexico and patterned after the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) commonly used in other states. The YRRS includes additional questions on resiliency/protective factors that are not included in other statewide surveys. The YRRS survey is distributed every two years to most of the NM school districts and is implemented in high schools for youth 14–18 years old.



### New Mexico Youth Alliance Survey

Thank you for participating in our survey. You are helping us to get the true youth voice of young people in the state of New Mexico. Please read the following statements and answer each one between the options below:

**1- Strongly Agree 2-Agree 3-Disagree 4-Strongly Disagree DK- Don't Know**

I have easy access to affordable health care services.	1	2	3	4	DK
I have access to healthy meal choices at school.	1	2	3	4	DK
I exercise regularly.	1	2	3	4	DK
I often feel stressed out.	1	2	3	4	DK
I feel safe and supported with my family/caregivers.	1	2	3	4	DK
I feel safe and supported in my community.	1	2	3	4	DK
I live with a guardian(s) that are not my original birthparents.	1	2	3	4	DK
I feel safe and supported in my school.	1	2	3	4	DK
I feel academically prepared for school.	1	2	3	4	DK
I have witnessed bullying at my school.	1	2	3	4	DK
I have physically been in a fight at school.	1	2	3	4	DK
My school provides service learning or internships at school.	1	2	3	4	DK
I volunteer in my community.	1	2	3	4	DK
My opinion is important to my community.	1	2	3	4	DK
There are opportunities for youth in my community to be active.	1	2	3	4	DK
I have participated in gang related activities.	1	2	3	4	DK
There are employment opportunities for youth in my community.	1	2	3	4	DK
I often get a chance to learn and use job related skills.	1	2	3	4	DK
I am prepared for adult responsibilities.	1	2	3	4	DK
I have considered or attempted youth or teenage suicide.	1	2	3	4	DK
I often get a chance to talk about my ideas and things that matter to me.	1	2	3	4	DK
Going to college, or post secondary education is important to me.	1	2	3	4	DK
I have access to drugs and or alcohol.	1	2	3	4	DK
I have experimented with drugs: Cocaine, pot, crystal meth.-(Ice), other, etc.	1	2	3	4	DK
I have experimented with steroids or banned substances.	1	2	3	4	DK
I have access to guns and or other weapons.	1	2	3	4	DK
I have personally been affected by violence.	1	2	3	4	DK
I have been impacted by an act of domestic violence.	1	2	3	4	DK
I understand the consequences of drinking at a young age.	1	2	3	4	DK
Youth and teenage pregnancy is a big issue to me.	1	2	3	4	DK
I understand the importance of internet safety for young people.	1	2	3	4	DK
I have knowledge about identity theft.	1	2	3	4	DK

**Please fill out the following information about your self:**

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you eligible for free or reduced lunch? \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

What is your racial/ethnic background? \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your community urban or rural? \_\_\_\_\_

Where in your community do you feel safe and supported?

Where in your community do you feel unsafe? Why?

What do you like and dislike about school?

Do you consider your self mentally and physically healthy?

What would you recommend to improve education in the schools within your community? Why?

What is the most important youth issue facing young people in your community?

Is there anything else you would like the legislators and policy makers in New Mexico to know?



### Southern Dona Ana Survey of Youth Issues



**Please check the appropriate boxes below:**

- Male                       Female  
 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade             9-12<sup>th</sup> Grade             Adult

**School:**

- Gadsden Middle             Gadsden HS  
 Santa Teresa Middle       Santa Teresa HS  
 Anthony Middle             Anthony High  
 Chaparral Middle           Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Place a mark next to the top 5 issues (1-most important/5 least important) that young people face in Southern Dona Ana:**

*(Read through this list first and then come back and mark your boxes)*

- Pregnancy
- Violence/Gangs/Fights/Physical Abuse
- Suicide
- Pressure to have sexual intercourse
- Drug use
- Smoking
- Alcohol use
- Transportation
- Self-image/self-esteem
- Lack of parent or adult involvement in life
- Sexual abuse/rape/date rape
- Grades
- Drop outs from school
- Not enough things to do (sports and arts activities)
- Not enough safe places to hang out/ park safety
- Graffiti or tagging
- Peers not reaching out to peers
- Police Conflicts
- Adult-Youth Communication
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

---



---

Thank you for filling out this survey for The Southern Doña Ana Action for Youth Partnership. It will help in identifying Community Issues that we will target in the future. If you are interested in learning more about who we are please feel free to contact April Stamper at the number provided below.

Southern Dona Ana Partnership  
 Leaders Opening Views Everywhere  
 2511 Chaparral St. Las Cruces, NM 88001  
 WEB: [www.sdanmaction4youth.com](http://www.sdanmaction4youth.com)

April D. Stamper  
 Community Coordinator  
 505-649-3478  
[southerndonaana@yahoo.com](mailto:southerndonaana@yahoo.com)

### NEW MEXICO COUNTY RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND COUNTY READINESS SURVEY

#### ***INTRODUCTION***

This is a survey in support of a new Federal grant for Substance Abuse Prevention in New Mexico. Hopefully you recently received an email explaining this grant, the reason for this survey, and the reason for your selection as a respondent. The goal of this survey is to assess the current availability of substance abuse prevention activities in the state. You've been selected as one of several experts from your county, to help provide a comprehensive view of current prevention efforts in your county.

Since you are representing your county in this survey, please keep the entire county in mind as you respond to the questions in this survey. The prevention activities you describe may be conducted by your organization, or they may be conducted by any other organization in your county.

If you have any questions about the grant or this survey, please contact Dan Green, Social Indicator Epidemiologist of the New Mexico Department of Health, at 505-476-1779. Dan's email is [Dan.Green@doh.state.nm.us](mailto:Dan.Green@doh.state.nm.us).

We greatly appreciate your help in completing this survey. We'd like to start by confirming some general information about you and your organization.

#### ***GENERAL INFORMATION***

1.	How would you like your name to appear?	
2.	What is your title?	
3.	What county are you representing?	
4.	What organization are you representing?	
5.	What is your organization's address?	
	5a. Street	5b. City
		5c. Zip
6a.	What is your email address?	
6b.	What is your phone number?	
6c.	What is your fax number?	
7.	How long have you been in your current position?	
8.	How long have you been in the prevention field? (# of years)	

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED

For the first series of questions, we'd like to ask you about youth-focused prevention activities in your county.

<i>Question</i>				
Are there organizations in your county that support the following types of <u>youth-focused prevention activities</u> ?		Yes	No	DK
9.	Drug-and-alcohol free social and recreational activities (for example, drug-free dances, "Just Say No" clubs, prom and graduation contracts)?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
10.	Life skills and/or social skills training (for example, assertiveness, communication, drug refusal, problem-solving, or conflict resolution skills training)?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
11.	Youth support groups around <u>substance abuse prevention</u> (for example, Alateen, COSA)?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
12.	Youth community-action groups around <u>substance abuse prevention</u> (for example, SADD, youth councils)?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
13.	Youth community-action groups around <u>violence prevention</u> ?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

14. What, if any, organizations in your county are the recognized leaders in the area of youth-focused prevention programs and services?

For the next series of questions, we'd like to ask you about family-or-parent-focused prevention activities in your county.

<i>Question</i>				
Are there organizations in your county that support the following types of <u>family-or-parent-focused prevention activities</u> ?		Yes	No	DK
15.	Family-or-parent-focused <u>substance abuse prevention</u> ?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
16.	Family-or-parent-focused <u>youth violence prevention</u> ?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7



17. What, if any, organizations in your county are the recognized leaders in the area of family-or-parent-focused programs and services?

For the next series of questions, we'd like to ask you about school-focused prevention policies in your county.

<i>Question</i>				
Are there organizations in your county that work on the development or enforcement of the following types of school-focused prevention policies?		Yes	No	DK
18.	Development of school policies that discourage <u>substance abuse</u> ?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
19.	Development of school policies that discourage <u>youth violence</u> ?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

20. What, if any, organizations in your county are the recognized leaders in the development of school-focused prevention policies?

For the next series of questions, we'd like to ask you about community-focused substance abuse prevention activities in your county.

<i>Question</i>				
Are there organizations in your county that work on the following types of <u>community-focused substance abuse prevention activities</u> ?		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>DK</b>
21.	Development of community laws and policies that discourage substance abuse?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
22.	Enforcement of community laws and policies that discourage substance abuse?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
23.	Media campaigns to discourage substance abuse? (Media campaigns includes posters, public service announcements, advertisements, commercials).	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
24.	Community mobilization to discourage substance abuse? (Community mobilization includes coalition building, neighborhood watch)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
25.	Community development and capacity building to discourage substance abuse? (Community development and capacity building includes training and technical assistance to community groups and organizations)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
26.	Providing or assisting with community policing or Neighborhood Watch programs	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

**INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPONDENT:**

**If you are a:**

- β **County DWI Coordinator then go to Q27 and continue.**
- β **CYFD Underage Drinking Coordinator then go to Q28 and continue.**
- β **Any other type of respondent then go to Q29 and continue.**

27. Please name up to three DWI prevention activities your council supports:

28. Please name up to three Underage Drinking prevention activities you support:

29. What, if any, organizations in your county are the recognized leaders in the provision of community-focused substance abuse prevention activities?

30. What, if any, organizations in your county collaborate with each other on joint planning of substance abuse prevention activities?

For the next series of questions, we'd like to ask you about community-focused youth violence prevention activities in your county.

<i>Question</i>				
Are there organizations in your county that work on the following types of <u>community-focused youth violence prevention activities</u> ?		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>DK</b>
31.	Development of community laws and policies that discourage youth violence?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
32.	Enforcement of community laws and policies that discourage youth violence?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
33.	Media campaigns to discourage youth violence? (Media campaigns include posters, public service announcements, advertisements, commercials)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
34.	Community mobilization to discourage youth violence? (Community mobilization includes, coalition building, neighborhood watch)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
35.	Community development and capacity building to discourage youth violence? (Community development and capacity building include training and technical assistance to community groups and organizations)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

36. What, if any, organizations in your county are the recognized leaders in the provision of community-focused youth violence prevention activities?

37. What, if any, organizations in your county collaborate with each other on joint planning of youth violence prevention activities?

### FEDERAL FUNDING:

Now we'd like to ask a couple questions about the current availability of Federal funding to support prevention activities in your county.

		<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>DK</i>
38.	Are you aware of Federal grants in your county that are directed toward substance abuse or related prevention activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
	tell me what organizations receive these grant(s):			
	a.			
	b.			
	c.			

		<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>DK</i>
40.	Are you aware of Federal grants in your county that are directed toward youth violence prevention activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
	tell me what organizations receive these grant(s):			
	a.			
	b.			
	c.			

### BARRIERS:

Now we'd like to ask you about possible barriers to prevention in your county. We're interested in barriers that sometimes prevent counties from addressing problems such as underage drinking, DWI, or youth violence.

Please indicate the extent to which each of the following issues is a barrier to prevention activity in your county.		Not a Barrier	Minor Barrier	Moderate Barrier	Significant Barrier	Don' Know
42.	Lack of leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
43.	Insufficient or ineffective local collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
44.	Opposition from a business or industry	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
45.	Organizational instability or staff turnover	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
46.	Lack of community awareness of the problem	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
47.	Cultural or language differences	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
48.	Geographic or distance barriers	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
49.	Insufficient law enforcement activity to address problems	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

50.	Small number of active collaborators	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
-----	--------------------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------

### COUNTY READINESS:

Now we'd like to know about your county's readiness to engage in substance abuse prevention activities.

<i>Please express your agreement or disagreement with each statement.</i>		<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Somewhat Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
51.	There is a clear and generally shared idea of what is meant by substance abuse prevention.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
52.	Clear policies supporting substance abuse prevention have been enacted in this county.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
53.	There is a coordinated strategic planning effort in place for substance abuse prevention.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
54.	Organizations in this county are pursuing a collaborative approach to substance abuse prevention.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
55.	There is a coordinated effort to evaluate the results of existing substance abuse prevention efforts.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
56.	There are specific channels through which State-level resources support substance abuse prevention efforts.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

<i>(Continued from previous page)</i>							
<i>Please express your agreement or disagreement with each statement.</i>		Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
57.	There are technical assistance resources available to support substance abuse prevention efforts.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
58.	There is a commitment to the funding of substance abuse prevention efforts in this county.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
59.	There are useful models for substance abuse prevention.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
60.	Data is being used for substance abuse prevention planning.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
61.	There are recognized substance abuse prevention leaders in this county.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
62.	Training opportunities in substance abuse prevention are available in this county.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7



This is the last set of questions. This is very similar to the previous set of questions, except that now we'd like to ask you about your county's readiness to engage in youth violence prevention activities.

Please express your agreement or disagreement with each statement.		<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Somewhat Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
63.	There is a clear and generally shared idea of what is meant by youth violence prevention.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
64.	Clear policies supporting youth violence prevention have been enacted in this county.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
65.	There is a coordinated strategic planning effort in place for youth violence prevention.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
66.	Organizations in this county are pursuing a collaborative approach to youth violence prevention.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
67.	There is a coordinated effort to evaluate the results of existing youth violence prevention efforts.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
68.	There are specific channels through which State-level resources support youth violence prevention efforts.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

<i>(Continued from previous page)</i>							
Please express your agreement or disagreement with each statement.		Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
69.	There are technical assistance resources available to support youth violence prevention efforts.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
70.	There is a commitment to the funding of youth violence prevention efforts in this county.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
71.	There are useful models for youth violence prevention.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
72.	Data is being used for youth violence prevention planning.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
73.	There are recognized youth violence prevention leaders in this county.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
74.	Training opportunities in youth violence prevention are available in this county.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

**The information you've shared will be very valuable. We greatly appreciate your participation in this survey. On behalf of the New Mexico Department of Health, we want to thank you for your time and cooperation.**



