SEXUAL VIOLENCE AMONG YOUTH IN NEW MEXICO





10.1% of high school girls and 4.1% of high school boys in New Mexico reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.

(source: 2015 NM YRRS)



Youth in New Mexico with a history of forced sex have more than twice the risk for alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use and more than three times the risk for poor mental health outcomes, including suicide attempts and suicide ideation, than students who did not report a history of forced sex.

(Reed, D., Reno, J., & Green, D. (2016). Sexual violence among youth in New Mexico: risk and resiliency factors that impact behavioral health outcomes. Family & community health, 39(2), 92-102.)



The rate of sexual violence victimization among high school youth in New Mexico has been trending downward since 2007.

(source: 2015 NM YRRS and 2015 CDC YRBS)

Children and adolescents who are members of marginalized communities are at increased risk for sexual violence victimization.

The percentage in each of these groups experiencing victimization in 2015 was:

EXPERIENCING HOUSING INSTABILITY



21.7%

IDENTIFY AS LESBIAN, GAY, OR BISEXUAL



18.9%

BLACK OR

AMERICAN

AFRICAN

LIVING WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES



15.9%



FOREIGN-BORN



10.5%



AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE

7.5%

The ROOT CAUSE of sexual violence is OPPRESSION.

Sexual violence is a means by which people with more power HARM those with less power.

SOCIAL NORMS pertaining to power, privilege, secrecy, privacy, gender roles, gender expression, and other social determinants of health HELP PERPETUATE SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

(New Mexico – Sexual Violence Free, A Statewide Strategic Plan for the Primary Prevention of Sexual Violence, 2015-2020)

WHAT WORKS IN PREVENTION

Promote
Social Norms
that Protect
Against
Violence

Teach Skills to

Prevent Sexual

Violence

Support Victims/ Survivors to Lessen Harms STOP SV

Provide Opportunities

to Empower and Support Girls and

Create
Protective
Environments





(Basile, K. C., DeGue, S., Jones, K., Freire, K., Dills, J., Smith, S. G., & Raiford, J. L. (2016). STOP SV: A technical package to prevent sexual violence. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.)

During FY16, 4814 students in six communities throughout New Mexico completed multi-session education programs that aimed to change norms around sexual violence. In 10/11 programs, youth showed significant decreases in attitudes that are shown to be risk factors for sexual violence perpetration.





In two of six counties where prevention programming took place, rates of history of forced sex among young people dropped significantly between 2013-2015.

For more information contact:

