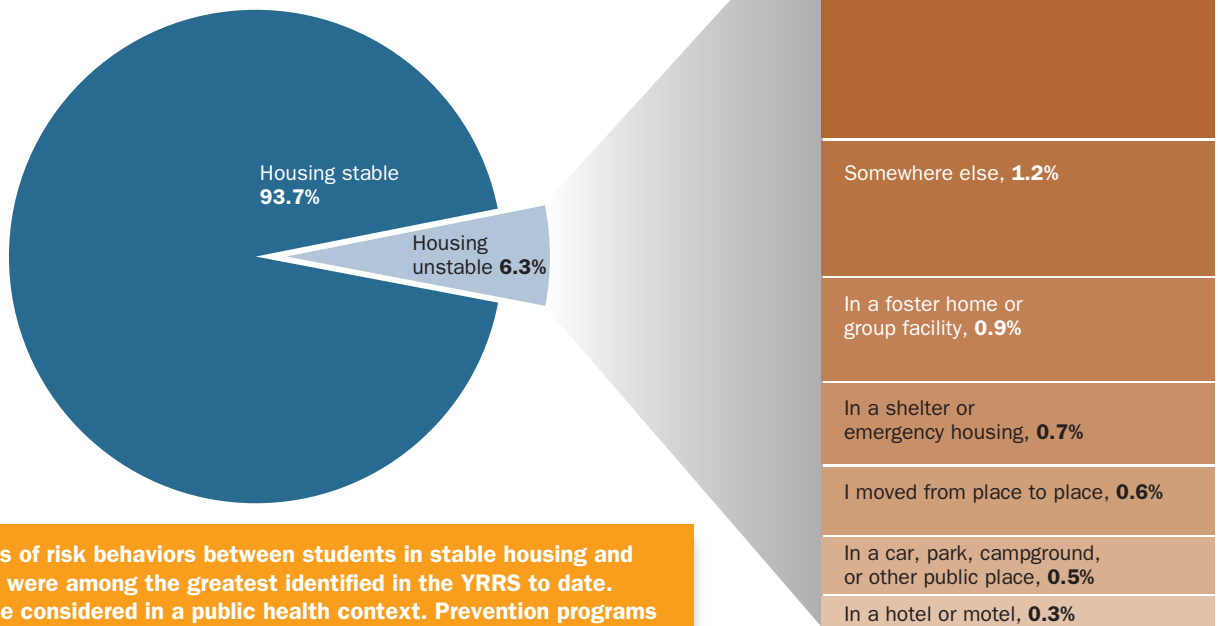


2015 NM-YRRS Results: Housing Instability Among Youth

Young people experiencing housing instability (homelessness) also face significant educational, health and emotional challenges. Results from the 2015 NM-YRRS high school survey revealed that 6.3% of students in grades 9–12 were in an unstable housing situation.

This was determined by a new question on the 2015 YRRS, “During the past 30 days, where did you usually sleep at night?” Students were considered housing unstable if they supplied any response other than, “In my parent’s or guardian’s home.”

Housing Instability
Grades 9–12 ■ NM ■ 2015



The disparities in the rates of risk behaviors between students in stable housing and those in unstable housing were among the greatest identified in the YRRS to date. Housing stability should be considered in a public health context. Prevention programs should target students living in unstable housing conditions, and programs should be tailored to address the specific behaviors of those students.

Students who were in unstable housing had extremely high rates of drug use, alcohol use, tobacco use, suicide attempts, being bullied, and being victims of sexual violence. Compared to students with stable housing, those living in unstable housing situations were:

- 4.5 times as likely to skip school because of safety concerns (28.2% vs 6.3%)*
- 1.7 times as likely to be bullied on school property (30.1% vs 17.6%)†
- 3.4 times as likely to have been physically forced to have sexual intercourse (21.7% vs. 6.3%)‡
- 3.4 times as likely to attempt suicide (28.7% vs. 8.4%)†
- 4.5 times as likely to smoke cigarettes (41.5% vs. 9.7%)*
- 3.4 times as likely to binge drink (43.2% vs. 12.8%)*
- 21.7 times as likely to use methamphetamines (30.3% vs. 1.4%)*
- 30.6 times as likely to use heroin (30.6% vs. 1.0%)*

* In the past 30 days † In the past 12 months ‡ Ever in lifetime

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