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

- **Housing stable**: 93.7%
- **Housing unstable**: 6.3%

### Housing Situation
- In a friend’s or relative’s home, **2.1%**
- Somewhere else, **1.2%**
- In a foster home or group facility, **0.9%**
- In a shelter or emergency housing, **0.7%**
- I moved from place to place, **0.6%**
- In a car, park, campground, or other public place, **0.5%**
- In a hotel or motel, **0.3%**

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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This newsletter was produced by the New Mexico Department of Health and the Public Education Department (NM PED), and the University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center. The NM YRRS receives support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in cooperation with the NM PED through Grant number U87PS004195-01. For more information about the YRRS, including methodology, comprehensive state level reports, county level reports, and more, see [www.youthrisk.org](http://www.youthrisk.org) or [nmhealth.org/go/youth](http://nmhealth.org/go/youth). To have an email added, changed or removed from the mailing list, contact YRRS@youthrisk.org.