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%
- Living with physical disabilities: 15.9%
- Foreign-born: 9.4%
- Black or African American: 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.

---

**WHAT WORKS IN PREVENTION**

STOP SV

- Promote Social Norms that Protect Against Violence
- Support Victims/Survivors to Lessen Harms
- Teach Skills to Prevent Sexual Violence
- Provide Opportunities to Empower and Support Girls and Women
- Create Protective Environments
- Support Victims/Survivors to Lessen Harms

---

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:

Socorro Salazar, Sexual Violence Response and Prevention Coordinator
Office of Injury Prevention | Injury and Behavioral Epidemiology Bureau | Epidemiology and Response Division
505-476-3302 • Socorro.Salazar@state.nm.us