

Improving Child Well-Being in New Mexico



Health

INDICATOR: Teen Alcohol and Drug Abuse*

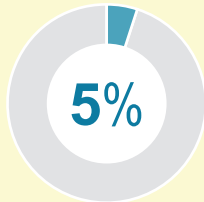
2016 indicator ranking



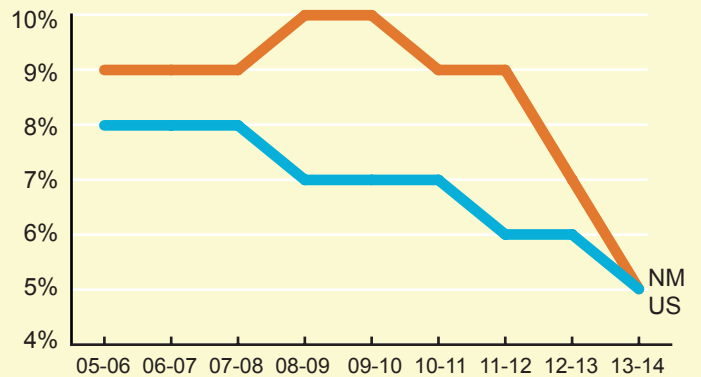
Number of teens abusing alcohol and drugs

9,000

Percent of teens abusing alcohol and drugs



Trends in teen alcohol and drug abuse



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up to the top ranking



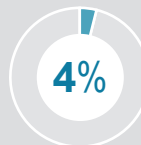
It would take a

12%

drop



in teens abusing alcohol and drugs



Which means

1,100

fewer teens abusing alcohol and drugs

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Expand mental health programs for children, youth and families.
- Expand funding and support for school-based health centers so students have access to physical and mental health services they might not otherwise get in a safe, accessible place.
- Support the creation of and funding for county and tribal health councils in order to better reach youth who are self-medicating an untreated mental health problem with alcohol or drugs.
- Fund drug and alcohol rehabilitation services for youth, especially at an early intervention stage—as opposed to incarcerating youth for alcohol-related offenses—to help prevent further problems and reduce high rates of recidivism.

*Teens (ages 12 to 17) who reported abusing alcohol or drugs in the past year.

**Ranking improvement estimates are based on point-in-time data reported in 2016; changes in other states' outcomes can also influence New Mexico's future rankings.

Sources: Rankings from: *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016 (because states can tie in indicator rankings it may take more than 1 or 5 rankings in order to move up); Data from: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006 to 2014

New Mexico Voices for Children
625 Silver Ave. SW • Albuquerque, NM 87102 • 505-244-9505
www.nmvoices.org

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