13.3% of high school girls and 4.9% of high school boys in New Mexico reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.

In New Mexico,
- 82.2% of high school students believe there is an adult that cares about them outside of their home or school
- 82.4% of high school students believe they have a friend who really cares about them.

Connection to a caring adult and affiliation with pro-social peers are shown to protect against the risk of sexual violence perpetration.

The rate of sexual violence victimization among high school youth in New Mexico trended downward from 2007 to 2015. The rate has trended back up from 2015 to 2019.

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 2019 was:

- Experiencing housing instability: 22%
- Identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual: 20.9%
- Living with physical disabilities: 15%
- Foreign-born: 12.3%
- Black or African American: 10.1%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 8.6%
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**.

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

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**WHAT WORKS IN PREVENTION**

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

During FY19, **7,163 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 **4 of 9 counties** where educational prevention programming took place, rates of forced sex among young people dropped between 2005-2019.

For more information contact:

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