

# Santa Fe Reconnecting Youth Survey

## Results Brief: Connectedness

The **RECONNECTING YOUTH SURVEY (RYS)** was conducted in Santa Fe County in the late summer and fall of 2017 to identify risk and resiliency factors, and barriers to services among youth who are not included in school-based surveys.

<b>TARGET POPULATION</b>	14-26 year old Santa Fe County youth not in school and not working, or at risk of not being in school or work
<b>SAMPLING</b>	Non-probability sample based on list of community-based locations
<b>DATA COLLECTION</b>	Youth and young adults hired to collect survey data using mobile devices
<b>SAMPLE SIZE</b>	457 completed surveys

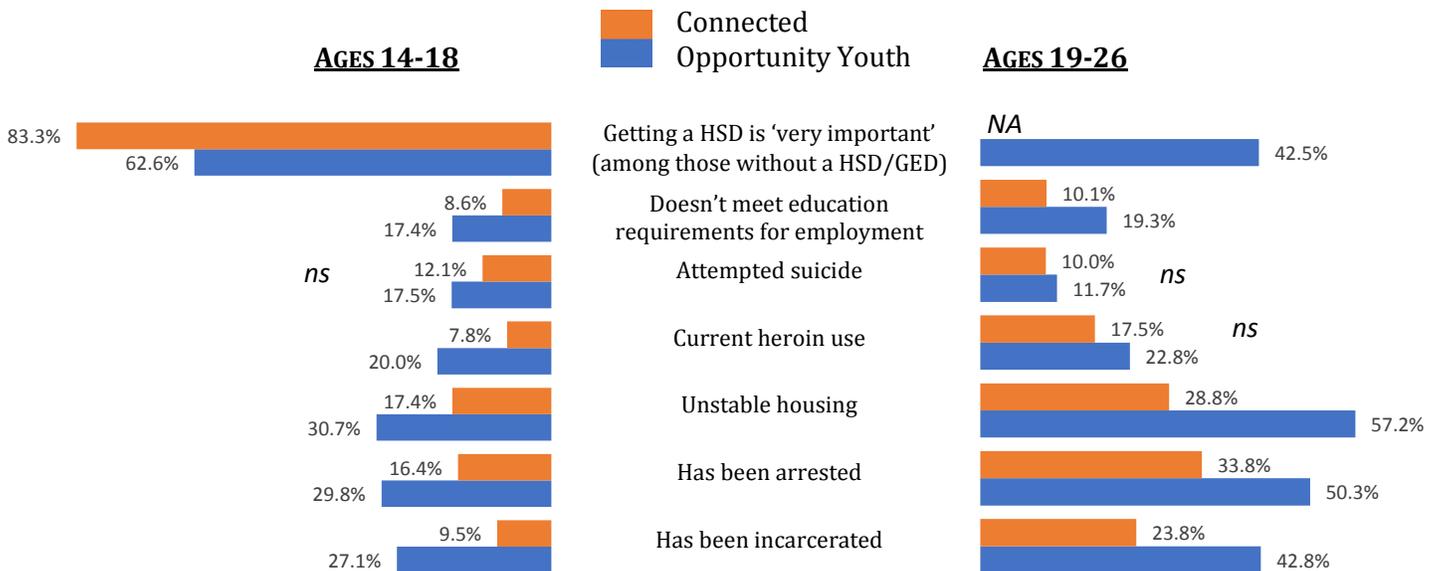
### WHAT IS CONNECTEDNESS?

Connected youth are those between the ages of 14 and 26 who are in school and/or working. Youth who are not in school and not working are known as “Opportunity Youth”. Youth who are working, but who are not going to school, and have not graduated from high school, are known as under-connected youth. For the purposes of this report, under-connected youth were included with Opportunity Youth.

### CONNECTEDNESS OF RESPONDENTS BY AGE



### RISK BEHAVIORS AND CHARACTERISTICS



For both age groups, Opportunity Youth had a higher risk for unstable housing, heroin use, arrests and incarceration, suicidal ideation and difficulty finding employment. Among youth ages 14-18 without a high school diploma or GED (HSD/GED), Opportunity Youth were less likely to think a HSD/GED was very important. Among Opportunity Youth ages 19-26, only 42.5% thought a HSD/GED was very important. Virtually all of the connected 19-26 year old youth already had a HSD/GED.



Permission to use data and more documentation are available from the Reconnecting Youth Working Group of Opportunity Santa Fe ([info@opportunitysantafe.org](mailto:info@opportunitysantafe.org)).

## CHALLENGES

Opportunity Youth faced significant challenges relating to obtaining an education or a job.

### TOP 5 CHALLENGES FACING OPPORTUNITY YOUTH RELATING TO EDUCATION

Age 14-18	Age 19-26
Poor grades (44.5%)	Had to work instead of go to school (29.8%)
Family responsibilities (24.5%)	Poor grades (26.2%)
Transportation (17.3%)	Transportation (25.5%)
Did not know where to go or how to apply (17.3%)	Family responsibilities (21.3%)
Had to work instead of go to school (16.4%)	Couldn't afford school (21.3%)

### TOP 5 CHALLENGES FACING OPPORTUNITY YOUTH RELATED TO JOBS

Age 14-18	Age 19-26
Did not know how to apply or who is hiring (31.3%)	Transportation (23.4%)
Did not have work experience, skills, or training (30.4%)	Didn't meet minimum education requirements (19.3%)
Transportation (19.1%)	Did not know how to apply or who is hiring (15.2%)
Did not meet minimum education requirements (17.4%)	Had to take care of children (15.2%)
Family responsibilities (15.7%)	Family responsibilities (15.2%)

## GETTING HELP

Opportunity youth reported they needed help in several important areas. These included employment, housing, transportation, food, and school.

### TOP 5 AREAS OPPORTUNITY YOUTH COULD HAVE USED HELP WITH

Age 14-18	Age 19-26
Employment (50.0%) (40.4% did get help)	Employment (57.9%) (40.5% did get help)
Housing (35.1%) (30.0% did get help)	Housing (57.2%) (28.9% did get help)
Food (29.8%) (61.8% did get help)	Food (35.2%) (54.9% did get help)
School (28.9%) (57.6% did get help)	School (35.2%) (31.4% did get help)
Getting GED or HiSET (27.2%) (51.6% did get help)	Transportation (31.7%) (30.4% did get help)



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