

Santa Fe Reconnecting Youth Survey

Results Brief: Housing Instability

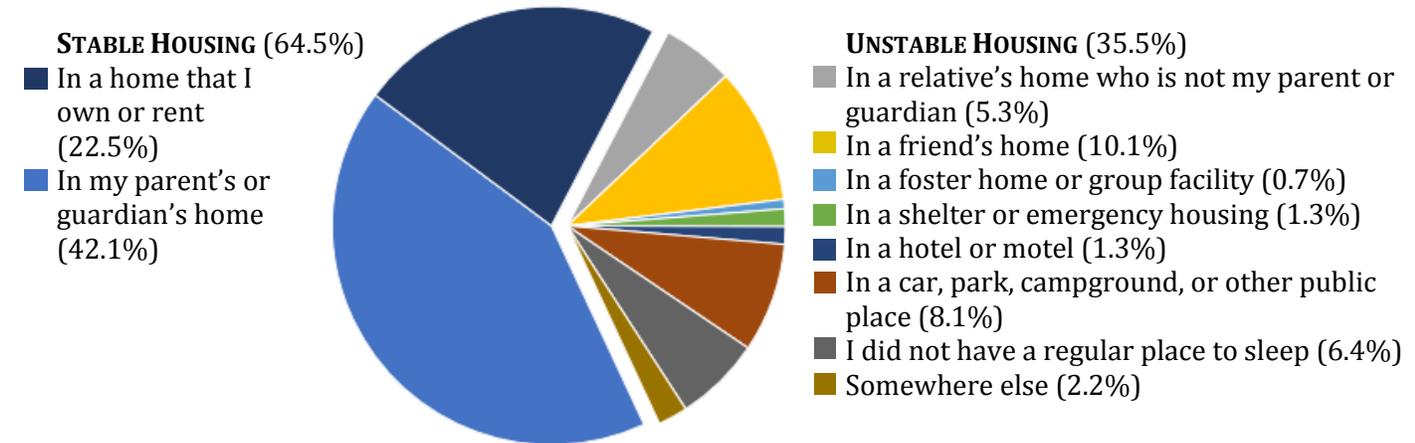
The **RECONNECTING YOUTH SURVEY (RYS)** was conducted in the late summer and fall of 2017 to identify risk and resiliency factors, and barriers to services among youth who are not included in school-based surveys.

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

WHAT IS HOUSING INSTABILITY?

Housing instability, or homelessness, means lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (McKinney-Vento Act). RYS respondents were considered to be in unstable housing, or to be homeless, if they usually slept at night in any place other than in their own home or in the home of their parents or guardians.

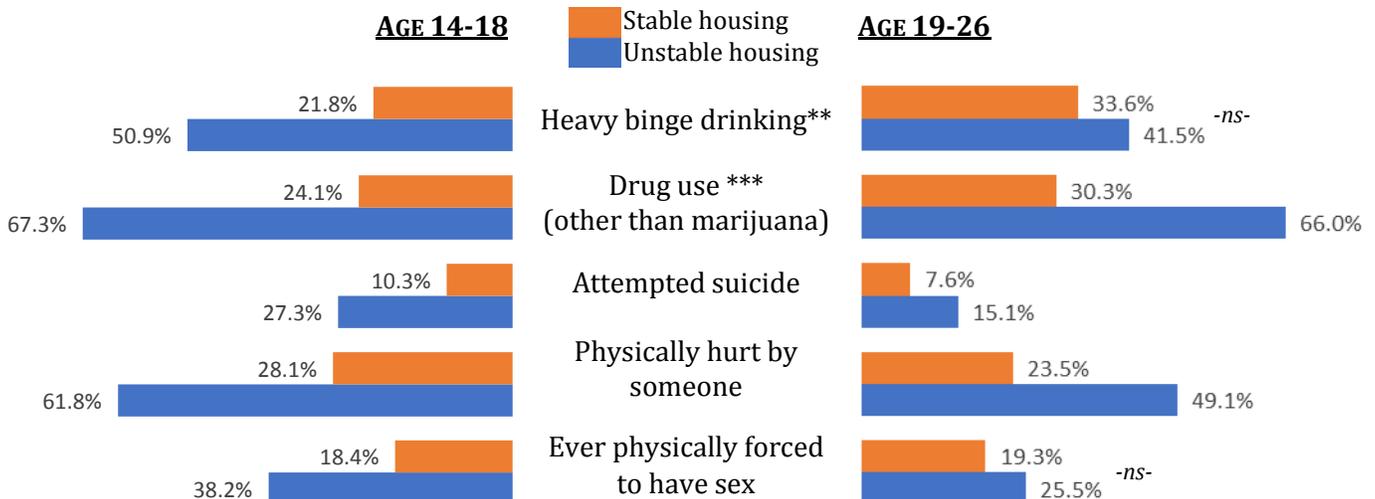
During the past 30 days, where did you usually sleep at night?



More than one-third (35.5%) percent of RYS respondents lived in unstable housing. Older youth were most likely to be in unstable housing (47.1%). Among those 14-18 years of age, 24.0% were in unstable housing, compared to just 6.0% of public high school students of a similar age group.*

RISK BEHAVIORS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Youth in unstable housing were more likely to use alcohol and drugs, to attempt suicide, and to be victims of sexual violence.



ns = no statistically significant difference by housing stability.



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

HELP WITH HOUSING

- Among 14-18 year olds, almost half (49.1%) of those in unstable housing said they could have used help with housing. Of those who could have used help, less than a third (29.6%) got the help they needed.
- Among 19-26 year olds, almost two-thirds (64.2%) of those in unstable housing said they could have used help with housing. Of those who could have used help, less than a quarter (23.5%) got the help they needed.

CHALLENGES

Youth in unstable housing faced significant challenges related to school, jobs, and access to behavioral health services.

TOP 5 CHALLENGES YOUTH IN UNSTABLE HOUSING FACED RELATED TO SCHOOL

Age 14-18	Age 19-26
Poor grades (37.0%)	Needed to work (32.0%)
Family responsibilities (31.5%)	Transportation (32.0%)
Needed to work (20.4%)	Couldn't afford school (29.1%)
Transportation (18.5%)	Family responsibilities (21.4%)
Did not know where to go or how to apply (14.8%)	Poor grades (14.8%)

TOP 5 CHALLENGES YOUTH IN UNSTABLE HOUSING FACED RELATED TO JOBS

Age 14-18	Age 19-26
Did not have work experience, skills, or training (32.7%)	Did not have transportation (29.5%)
Did not know how to apply or who is hiring (30.9%)	Had other family responsibilities (19.0%)
Did not have transportation (27.3%)	Could not pass drug test (19.0%)
Had other family responsibilities (23.6%)	Did not know how to apply or who is hiring (18.1%)
Did not meet minimum education requirements (18.2%)	Had poor physical or emotional health (17.1%)

TOP 5 CHALLENGES YOUTH IN UNSTABLE HOUSING FACED RELATED TO GETTING HELP WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES (MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE USE)

Age 14-18	Age 19-26
Did not know what services were available (33.3%)	Did not know what services were available (29.5%)
Services I needed were not available (24.1%)	Had bad experience in the past (23.8%)
Hours of services were not good (20.4%)	Hours of services were not good (20.0%)
Had bad experience in the past (20.4%)	Location of services was not good (18.1%)
Location of services was not good (18.5%)	Thought services would not help me (18.1%)

*New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), 2015. New Mexico Department of Health and Public Education Department.

**Heavy binge drinking = At least two episodes in the last 30 days of drinking five or more drinks on a single occasion (males), or four or more drinks on a single occasion (females).

***At least one time in the past 30 days, used cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, or pain killers to get high.



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