

FY15 Needs Assessment

Sandoval County Juvenile Justice Program

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The population in Sandoval County is 136,575 (2014 Estimate) a 93.1% population growth since 1990 and it ranks 1st in New Mexico for its increase in residents. The County's population is ethnically diverse. According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2013 estimates), of the 136,575 people who reside in Sandoval County, 13.5% are American Indian/Native American, 2.6% are African American/Black, 1.7% are Asian, 36.9% are of Hispanic or Latino origin, and 45.8% are White persons not of Hispanic origin. Forty-six percent (46.0%) of children 6 years old are cared for by grandparents. Thirty-one percent (31.0%) of children ages 6-11 and twenty-three (23.0%) of children ages 12-17 are also cared for by grandparents. In FY11 nine thousand two hundred seventy four (9,274) children lived in single parent families (31.0%).

Poverty is an emphatic social determinant in Sandoval County particularly in the most rural communities. According to the Sandoval County State & County QuickFacts, 13.2% persons live below poverty level compared to 19.5% in the state. 19.0% of children who reside in Sandoval County live below poverty. Many of these low-income individuals and families live in housing that is substandard in neighborhoods that have access to few, if any, services, particularly in the more outlying areas of the county. Both poverty and lack of insurance are factors that have negative impacts on the health and safety of Sandoval County communities. Poverty in the early years of a child's life, more than at any other time, has especially harmful effects on healthy development and well-being. Early childhood poverty has been linked to negative outcomes later in a young person's life, including teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and educational attainment. Unemployment rate is 7.1% while persons not having health insurance rate is 13.0%. The following data provides a clear description of patterns and trends for problems and issues existing in the community specifically as they relate to youth (YRRS FY13):

In 2012 the dropout rate in Bernalillo and Rio Rancho School Districts was 6.4% while Cuba held a rate of 6.1%. The more education people acquire the more social support they have. Education helps people to gain a sense of control over their lives, an outcome associated with healthier well-being.

While Sandoval County underage drinking rates has decreased significantly and is slightly lower than the state, current drinking among high school students is still an alarming rate of 26.8%. It is at 14.2% among middle school students. Binge drinking among high school students is 15.5% and 5.7% among middle school students. Drinking on school property increased from 5.8% to 6.0% between FY11 and FY13 and is higher than the state. Drinking and driving has also increased significantly from 7.1% to 9.4% between FY11 and FY13. Early initiation (starting to use substances at an early age) is a big concern for Sandoval County, because research shows that the earlier youth start drinking alcohol, the more likely they are to experience alcohol dependence and other negative consequences later in life. 20.5% of youth in Sandoval County indicated that they had their first drink before age 13. 10.6% of middle school students had their first drink before age 11. Only 45.4% of high school students said that drinking at their age is a

risky behavior. 66.7% said it is easy for them to access alcohol and only 46.2% indicated that it is wrong for youth their age to use alcohol.

Sandoval County's use of all illicit drugs increased significantly between 2011 and 2013 and rates are also higher than the state among high school students. 26.2% of the students are current marijuana users. 4.6% of the students reported inhalant use, 3.1% reported heroin use, 3.4% reported meth use, 4.7% used Ecstasy, 9.7% used painkillers to get high and 6.0% used cocaine.

Suicide and violence among youth has only decreased slightly between years and continues to be a concern in Sandoval County. 9.7% of students reported that they have attempted suicide with 13.7% indicating that they have made a suicide plan. 12.3% experienced physical violence while dating. 26.7% reported being in a physical fight and 24.5% said they carried a weapon.

The data listed above are clear indicators for and contributing factors to youth problem adolescent behaviors. According to the 2013 JJS Annual Report there were 995 juvenile arrests in 2013. 542 cases were referred to juvenile court. 453 cases were diverted, 164 involved secure detention, and 270 cases were petitioned. 143 cases (rate of 1.43) resulted in delinquent findings, 135 cases (rate of 1.31) resulted in program placement, and 8 resulted in confinement in a secure juvenile correctional facility. There were 143 MIP/DWI offenses. 24 youth violated probation for drugs and alcohol. 23.3% of females and 66.7% males were delinquent referrals (Hispanics higher than any other race followed by non-Hispanic Whites). 210 cases were handled formally while 655 were disposed of informally. 177 were non-adjudicated cases. Most youth were between the ages of 16-17 (350) followed by the 14-15 age group (234). The top ten offenses were use or possession of alcohol by a minor (145), possession of drug paraphernalia (157), shoplifting (107 - \$250 or less), possession of marijuana or synthetic cannabis (100), disorderly conduct (77), battery (73), interference with public officer (73), battery on household member (48), criminal damage to property (47) and public affray (33).

The data clearly shows a direct correlation to the statistics reported in the 2013 JJS Annual Report. The proposed goal and objectives will benefit the community by significantly reducing risk factors that contribute to problem adolescent behaviors and increasing protective factors that will help promote positive behaviors and healthy well-being. Students will be provided an opportunity to succeed. They will have access to community resources, they will create plans to help them improve behavior and achieve their educational goals, and they will acquire social skills needed to improve their lives.

We also have a wealth of resources that we will draw from to continue to provide services to those in need. Below are some of the resources and they are continued in the Resource area below:

The following agencies and organizations exist within the community that lend support to the strategies being implemented by this proposed initiative

Medical:

Planned Parenthood – Rio Rancho – (505)-899-7900: Family planning, STD testing and treatment, pregnancy tests, abortions, annual exams, various contraceptive methods, and treatment for urinary infections.

PMS Health Clinic Counselor Navajo Chapter – (575) 568-4328: Medical services are offered.

Job Development/Employment:

Workforce Connection of Central NM (Rio Rancho) – (505) 89601765: Services available for employment and job development.

Healthcare:

Sandoval County Health Commons’ Family Support Program – 867-2291: Assistance available for food, clothing, housing, education and more.

El Pueblo Health Services – (505) 867-2324: Family practice, non-surgical women’s health care, newborn care, minor surgeries, preventative services, immunizations, family planning, diabetes prevention, and access to the State Breast and Cervical program. Sliding Fee Scale is available for residents of New Mexico.

Bernalillo Public Schools Spartan Wellness Center – (505) 404-5152: The Bernalillo Public Schools Spartan Wellness Center is located at Bernalillo High School and is a DOH funded School Based Health Center which provides primary and mental health care for children and families of the Bernalillo Public School district.

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Food and Clothing:

Store House West – (505) 892-2077: Provides emergency food, toys, and clothing

St. Vincent De Paul – (505) 892-0526 or (505) 867-1786: Provides emergency food and clothing, senior wellness program and financial assistance (one time per year)

Christ the Redeemer – (505) 615-1951: Provides clothing

First Baptist Church of Rio Rancho – (505) 892-1323: Provides clothing for families in need.

Nacimiento Medical Foundation (Cuba) – (505) 289-3718: Assistance available for food, clothing, housing, education, etc.

Substance Abuse Treatment and Case Management:

Hogares – (505) 345-8471: Treatment for youth ages 12-18 years old with severe emotional and substance abuse. Residential care, foster care, respite, treatment program for substance abuse and counseling, and case management

Educational Support:

Sandoval County Juvenile Justice Services – (505) 290-8729: Assessment for RAC and AES referrals. Services include referrals to the learning Lab, RAC, AES, VOMP, counseling, clothing, food, utilities, etc.

Read West (Rio Rancho) – (505)-892-1131: Tutoring for adults, ESL, and help with work and life skills.

Financial Assistance:

Sandoval County Income Support Division – (505) 771-6334: Food stamps, Medicaid, TANF (cash assistance) and low income heat and energy assistance (LIHEAP) programs.

Substance Abuse Prevention:

Sandoval County DWI and Prevention Program – (505) 220-8729: Community-based process and curriculum based classes to reduce underage drinking, underage binge drinking and DWI.

Five Sandoval Indian Pueblo – (505) 867-3351: Community-based process and curriculum based classes to reduce underage drinking, underage binge drinking and DWI. Services to Native American Indians residing in the five Pueblo communities of Cochiti, Santa Ana, Jemez, Zia and Sandia: WIC, behavioral health services, elderly programs, Head Start Program, food distribution program, and the employment and training project.

Family Support Services:

Abrazos Family Support Services – (505) 867-3396: Specialized health and developmental services that support families to meet special needs of infants, children and adult family members including developmental assessment, case management, developmental assessment and evaluation, etc.

PB & J Family Services – (505) 867-2356: Support services for families who are at risk with children age 5 and under. Services may include counseling and art therapy. Home-based programs and prison-related family support programs are also available.

Housing:

Town of Bernalillo, Department of Housing Services - (505) 867-2792 x21: Information and applications for Section 8 and public housing.

John Rinaldi Apartments – (505) 867-9778: Low income housing

Empowering our Communities in NM – (505) 867-3374: Services include home owner rehabilitation, homeless services, financial Literacy training, individual development accounts, shelter plus for care (for chronically homeless people with disabilities – primarily substance dependent, severe mental health, or HIV Aids patients). There is no cost for services.