

# Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board

## Community Assessment

Serving the City of Socorro and Socorro County

June 30, 2012 Revision



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**Fiscal Agent: City of Socorro**



# Table of Contents

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
1. Executive Summary	3
2. Introduction	4
a. Juvenile Justice Board Description	4
b. Vision, Mission and Purpose of JJB	5
c. Purpose of Assessment	5
d. Assessment Development	5
3. Perceptions of Key Stakeholders / Qualitative Research	7
a. Community in Relation to Young People	8
b. Schools	9
c. Family	11
d. At-Risk Youth Demographics	12
e. Stakeholder Recommendations to Meet Needs of Young People	13
4. Data Supports / Quantitative Analysis	14
a. CYFD Child Protective Services	14
b. CYFD Juvenile Justice Services	16
c. Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review	19
d. Domestic Violence	21
e. Population Data	22
f. Human Services	23
g. Health Highlights	24
h. Youth Substance Use	27
i. Risk Factors	34
j. Resiliency Factors	38
5. Inventory of Services / Supports / Interventions	43
6. Summary and Interpretation	49
a. Interpretation of Data / Major Issues	49
b. SCJJB Priorities	50

**1. Executive Summary:** The Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board (SCJJB) Community Assessment is the first step in the Board's efforts to develop a juvenile justice plan that covers the spectrum of prevention, intervention, and treatment strategies designed to address and encourage youth, parent, school and community involvement and interaction in reducing at-risk behaviors and in increasing protective factors.

Key person interviews and focus groups were utilized to gather residents' and key stakeholders perceptions of the strengths and areas of concern related to youth at risk for juvenile delinquency in Socorro County with the City of Socorro as the primary service area, but including Northern Socorro County students enrolled in Valencia County schools, communities along the I-25 corridor, Magdalena and the Alamo Navajo Reservation. DFL ASSOCIATES INC was contracted to coordinate this effort which included a series of 37 key person interviews with recognized community leaders and 3 youth focus groups. The community assessment was developed as the result of a detailed profile and gap analysis and constitutes the basis for the continuing process of planning, development, implementation and evaluation essential for the development of the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board's Strategic Plan. Ongoing dialogue about problem identification and emerging issues will continue. The SCJJB approved the 2012 Community Assessment and identified the most pressing delinquency prevention priorities on April 12, 2012; subsequent revisions were incorporated in June 2012 during the strategic planning process.

The primary community assets identified through the interview process are: small town and rural lifestyles; geography/space and outdoor recreational opportunities; extensive family network; core group of people dedicated to family and children; support from churches; and cultural diversity. The primary school assets identified are: best entities in County for meeting many overall needs of kids; good physical plant/ facilities; large percentage of local staff who know community and families; alternative education at middle and high schools; tutoring programs; Title I community liaisons; Science Olympiad and MESA programs. Primary family assets are identified as: strong family ties; strong support from extended family; and many caring and supportive families with children who are thriving.

The factors most often identified as major challenges in the community: uncoordinated agency actions and ineffective information sharing; meaningful and engaged activity with caring adults/ mentors; limited recreation/entertainment outside of school; limited employment & skills building opportunities; lacking specialized therapeutic services. Most frequently identified challenges in the schools: limited parental involvement; education is not a priority for many families; truancy; educational neglect; aggressive/bullying behavior by students; professional development for teachers to deal with increasing poverty and dysfunction in students' families; and limited counseling and social workers to help identify and refer students who need help. Primary family challenges identified are: supervision of children; parent accountability; parent engagement with children and their schools; culture of drug & alcohol abuse; culture of violence; gang involvement; financial stress; food insecurity; substandard housing; abuse and neglect.

The SCJJB examined primary and secondary data and the capacity of the Board and community to affect significant change and ranked priorities based on urgency, impact, feasibility, and current action or investment. Two priorities were identified: 1) Substance Abuse is identified as the over-arching issue

impacting youth and families and contributes to many of the other community problems identified in relation to juvenile delinquency. 2) Communication and coordination must be strengthened to build capacity and sustain a broad community-based approach to reduce abuse, neglect and juvenile delinquency. The SCJJB Strategic Plan will outline established goals, objectives, community partners and resources, and the resulting outcomes and indicators that we aim to improve. The Community Assessment is available for download through the City of Socorro website at [www.socorronm.gov](http://www.socorronm.gov).

**2. Introduction:** The Community Juvenile Justice Assessment for Socorro County is the result of a detailed profile and gap analysis by the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board that occurred February-April 2012. The community assessment consists of three main components: an assessment by key stakeholders of the assets and challenges that most impact at-risk youth (qualitative research); a quantitative analysis to provide a picture of our local youth and families based on the most current data available through State and regional epidemiology resources and service agencies; and an inventory of existing local services, supports and interventions. It also includes and compares local data to state and national levels.

The Community Assessment has enabled the SCJJB to engage in an informed and thoughtful process of weighing the data and community input in order to identify major issues impacting juvenile delinquency in the region and to prioritize those needs weighed against existing and potential resources to affect positive and permanent change. In addition to forming the basis for the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board Strategic Plan, this Community Assessment is in and of itself a publicly available community resource and is intended to be a resource tool for local and state government entities, members of the SCJJB and other community coalitions, local providers, non-profits, and faith-based and civic organizations.

This Assessment constitutes the basis for the continuing process of planning, development, implementation and evaluation essential for the development of the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board Strategic Plan. Every effort has been made to engage the diverse population sectors to make the Community Assessment and ultimately the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board Strategic Plan truly relevant for the residents of the region.

**a. Juvenile Justice Board Description:** In September 2011 the City of Socorro established the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board. The Board's duties and responsibilities are identified as: 1) Advise, plan and coordinate juvenile justice activities in Socorro County; 2) Collaborate with the appropriate agencies to address juvenile justice issues that span and effect youth in Socorro County; 3) Foster the creation and expansion of programs that identify and obtain funding from state, federal and other sources for the purposes of preventing and reducing juvenile delinquency and gang involvement; 4) Foster the creation and expansion of programs, services and activities that increase the protective factors for children and youth; 5) Develop a plan that encompasses best suited prevention, intervention and treatment strategies to reduce risk factors and to increase protective factors for children and youth in Socorro County; 6) Develop a plan that encourages the involvement

and interaction of youth, parents, schools and the community regarding strategies designed to reduce risk factors and to increase protective factors; 7) Recommend to the Socorro City Council a qualified candidate as Board Coordinator on an annual basis; 8) Make additional recommendations as they deem fit to the Socorro City Council to further the purpose of the SCJJB; and 9) Report to the Socorro City Council bi-annually on a minimum basis.

Membership includes residents of Socorro County with representation from the community, CYFD, local governments, school districts (administration and line staff), the courts, youth service organizations and government agencies, behavioral health or primary health care providers, faith community, business community and civic organizations.

### **b. Vision, Mission and Purpose of Juvenile Justice Board:**

**Vision Statement:** The vision of the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board is to positively impact and enhance the lives of our youth to prepare them for a productive adulthood.

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board is to develop a community network to serve and support the success of our youth and families in a positive, professional and organized manner.

**Purpose:** The Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board's primary charge is to originate, coordinate, execute and implement strategies and programs that seek out and obtain state, federal and other sources to fund and support initiatives, programs, services and activities that prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency and gang affiliation and involvement of children, and that increase the protective factors around children and youth. The second charge to the Juvenile Justice Board is to develop a juvenile justice plan that covers the spectrum of prevention, intervention, and treatment strategies designed to address and encourage youth, parent, school and community involvement and interaction in reducing at-risk behaviors and in increasing protective factors.

**c. Purpose of Assessment:** This assessment supports the continuing process of planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of a coordinated, integrated service delivery system to reduce juvenile delinquency and detention. It provides a needs assessment and gap analysis and reflects community input on current services and improvement strategies. Interpretation of the community data will enable the SCJJB to prioritize needs and issues, to identify actions to address the issues, and to identify indicators that can be used to monitor change and progress in addressing priority issues.

This document will form the basis for the SCJJB Strategic Plan and other community planning documents. It will be available as public information and can be accessed for download from the City of Socorro website at [www.socorronm.gov](http://www.socorronm.gov)

**d. Assessment Development:** The assessment was developed through qualitative and quantitative research and analysis by DFL staff. Interviews were conducted in Socorro, Magdalena,

Alamo Navajo Reservation, Polvadera and Las Nutrias. Three youth focus group interviews and 38 interviews with key stakeholders provide a broad perspective on the issues impacting juvenile delinquency. The youth focus groups included: students from Socorro High School's Extended Learning Center (some of whom are in the juvenile justice system); a Confirmation Class from San Miguel Catholic Church; and a youth group from Socorro First Baptist Church. The remaining stakeholder interviews represented education, mental and behavioral health services, community-based health services, judicial system, law enforcement, child welfare, youth and family services, services for people with developmental disabilities, housing authority, youth-oriented organizations, faith community, business community, local government, community members and a State legislator. These serve as the basis for current anecdotal (qualitative) information. The 2009 Socorro JDAI Site Assessment, submitted by the New Mexico JDAI Coordinator, was also reviewed and recommendations included where appropriate. DFL obtained empirical data (quantitative) through publicly available and verifiable data sources. DFL compiled data and prepared summaries and graphic representations contained within this document.

The Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board reviewed the assessment final draft and established priorities on April 12, 2012. Subsequent revisions were incorporated in June 2012 during the strategic planning process. The Community Assessment and resulting Strategic Plan can be accessed from the City of Socorro website at [www.socorronm.gov](http://www.socorronm.gov)

### 3. QUALITATIVE RESEARCH: PERCEPTIONS OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS

#### 37 Key Person Interviews

- Undersheriff and Deputy
- Socorro County Manager
- Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
- El Puente Domestic Violence Services
- Housing Authority
- City Councilor / Local Business
- Socorro Schools Superintendent
- High School Principal & Counselor
- Youth Center Staff
- Alamo Community School Superintendent
- Alamo Dean of Schools
- Alamo Adult Education Staff
- 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney
- High School Activities Director/ Catholic Youth Group Leader
- Midway Elementary Principal
- TRESKO
- NM State Representative, District 49
- CYFD Child Protective Services COM
- Legal Counsel

#### 3 Focus Groups

- Extended Learning Center / Socorro High
  - First Baptist Church Youth Group
  - San Miguel Catholic Church Confirmation Class
- 
- First Baptist Church Youth Pastor
  - Socorro Mental Health Executive Director
  - Parkview Elementary Principal & Counselor
  - Community Member/ Foster Parent
  - Community-Based Programs/ Youth Volunteer
  - Cottonwood Charter School Principal
  - Magdalena High School Principal
  - Magdalena Marshal
  - La Promesa Elementary Principal
  - Socorro General Hospital Community-Based Programs
  - Extended Learning Center Staff/ Coach
  - Sarracino Middle School Principal and Counselor
  - DOH Health Promotion Specialist
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court Judge
  -

## Community in Relation to Young People

### Assets:

- ✓ Small town and rural lifestyle
- ✓ Extensive family network
- ✓ Core group of people dedicated to family and children
- ✓ Church youth groups
- ✓ Sports leagues open to all
- ✓ Youth employment opportunities
- ✓ County Fair, 4-H, FFA
- ✓ Farming and agriculture
- ✓ Game preserves
- ✓ Cultural diversity
  
- ❖ Service providers: Socorro General Hospital and Community-Based Programs; Socorro Mental Health Services and Fatherhood Program; El Puente Domestic Violence Services; Tierra Luna Counseling

Alamo Navajo Indian Reservation: ◇ Vision of Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc.  
◇ Early Childhood Center ◇ Wellness Center ◇ Outdoor sports and recreation  
◇ Family oriented – nuclear, extended, clans

Magdalena: ◇ Community clinic with behavioral health team ◇ Entrepreneurial enterprises ◇ 4-H

Socorro: ◇ City of Socorro youth and recreational programs and Youth Center ◇ NM Tech employment, youth internships, arts programs ◇ Swimming Pool

Las Nutrias / Vegita: ◇ Strong community identity ◇ Resourcefulness

### Challenges that Impact Well-Being of Young People:



- Negative perceptions resulting from uncoordinated agency actions and ineffective information sharing:
  - Juvenile justice agencies operate in relative isolation from other child serving organizations
  - Concerns about equitable treatment and level of professionalism of Juvenile Probation Office
  - Concerns about timeliness of actions by District Attorney’s Office
  - Concerns that law enforcement is not doing enough
  - Reports of abuse/neglect to CYFD with seemingly no follow through and/or allegations deemed unsubstantiated
- Drug and alcohol use/abuse – particularly prescription opiates abuse and underage drinking being allowed in homes
- Limited facilities and pro-social activities for teens outside of school
- Limited mentorship activities/ programs
- Limited employment & skills building opportunities
- Limited visits for therapeutic and intensive outpatient services; existing providers are overloaded
- Transportation barriers
- Limited County services/ resources in far reaches of Socorro County
- Socio-economic disparities

### **Problems that Might Influence Misbehavior of Young People:**

- Repeated themes: “There are no consequences for kids’ actions”; “No one is holding kids accountable”; “No one is holding parents accountable”
- Need more alternatives to detention for delinquent youth

## **Schools**

### **Assets:**

- ✓ Good physical plant / facilities
- ✓ Large percentage of local staff who know community and families

- ✓ Alternative education at middle and high schools
- ✓ Tutoring programs
- ✓ Title I community liaisons
- ✓ Science Olympiad and MESA programs
- ✓ Best entities in County for meeting many overall needs of kids

Socorro High: ◇ Dual enrollment with NM Tech ◇ Strong athletic program  
 ◇ Extended Learning Center with child care ◇ Strong Activities Director with broad and diverse interests ◇ Vocational Education

Sarracino Middle: ◇ School Improvement Grant ◇ Individualized assessments 3/year

Midway Elementary: ◇ New physical plant ◇ Weekly gift card drawings for student attendance ◇ Monthly parent volunteer award (\$50 gift card)

Magdalena: ◇ School is K-12 and hub of community activity ◇ Open/inclusive of parents and community ◇ Weekly team meetings with teachers, counselors and school psychologist to identify individual issues/ needs of students ◇ Smaller so easier to implement better alternatives

Alamo Navajo Community School: ◇ Strong leadership for best interests of students – School Board incorporated and has both non-profit and for-profit arms to address school and community needs ◇ Upside Down Organization as consultants

## Challenges:

- Truancy and/or educational neglect
- Limited parental involvement
- Generational/ cultural barriers re importance of education
- Aggressive/bullying behavior by students
- Professional development for teachers/ staff to deal with increasing poverty and dysfunction in students' families
- Limited counseling and social workers to help identify and refer students
- Limited Special Education

- Mixed perceptions about dedication and motivation of administration and teachers in Socorro

### **Aspects that Might Contribute to Youth Getting in Trouble:**

- Many young people have no vision of their future
- Low educational self-esteem for many young people
- School is only place where many students experience boundaries so see more rebellion

## **Family**

### **Assets:**

- ✓ Strong family ties
- ✓ Strong support from extended family
- ✓ Many caring and supportive families with children who are thriving

### **Challenges:**

- Parent engagement with children and their school is critical to well-being of children
- Financial stress
- Chaotic extended families; parents absent
- Incarcerated parent(s)

### **Aspects that Contribute to Misbehavior of Youth:**

- Lack of parent accountability
- Drug & alcohol use/abuse; social norm for underage drinking at home
- Violence, abuse and neglect
- Children's education is not a priority for some parents
- Gang involvement; acute level of "Wannabe's"

## At-Risk Youth Demographics

- ❖ **Socio-Economic:** Primarily lower income and poverty level
- ❖ **Race/Ethnicity:** No apparent bias for at-risk; more Hispanic but reflective of population demographic. More Hispanics in the juvenile justice system.
- ❖ **Gender:** Slightly more males but increasing intensity of female offenses
- ❖ **Age:** Younger delinquency starting age 12
- ❖ **Family Dynamics:** Many young people moving around among extended family and acquaintances; parents not present and/or lack of parent accountability; multigenerational public assistance; substandard housing. A lot of substance use and violence; multiple partners; high rates of teen pregnancy.

## Stakeholder Recommendations to Meet Needs of Young People

- Increased collaboration and coordination among agencies
- Effective and timely incentives and consequences – accountability across the board
- Meaningful and productive engagement of young people – e.g. sustained mentorship programs, and greater service learning opportunities
- Better monitoring, reporting and consequences for truancy
- Aggressive investigation and prosecution of child abuse and increased foster care placement
- Therapeutic environment – increased utilization of Multi-Systemic Therapy; more specialty providers
- Make schools more inviting to parents

## 4. QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS: DATA SUPPORTS



### Child Protective Services for Socorro County

SOURCE: NM Protective Services Fact Book, Annual – Calendar Year 2010

#### PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORTS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT (ANNUAL) JANUARY – DECEMBER 2010

County	Accepted Reports <sup>1</sup>			Not Accepted Reports <sup>2</sup>			Total Reports Received	
	#	% of County	% of State	#	% of County	% of State	#	% of State Total
Socorro	186	55.2%	0.6%	151	44.8%	0.5%	337	1.1%
State Totals	17,791		56.3%	13,801		43.7%	31,592	100.0%

**Notes:**

1. Accepted Reports are comprised of reports of alleged child maltreatment with sufficient basis to receive a subsequent investigation by CYFD staff.
2. Not Accepted Reports are comprised of reports of alleged child maltreatment with insufficient basis to receive a subsequent investigation by CYFD staff and may include duplicate reports.

#### PROTECTIVE SERVICES INVESTIGATIONS (ANNUAL) JANUARY – DECEMBER 2010

County	Accepted Reports	Investigations					Number of Substantiated Child Victims	Victim Rate per 1,000	
		Substantiated		Unsubstantiated		Total			County % of State Total Investigations
		#	%	#	%	#			
Socorro	186	43	24.6%	132	75.4%	175	1.0%	74	14.4
State Totals	17,791	3,779	22.5%	13,015	77.5%	16,794	100.0%	6,534	11.6

*Socorro County has 18<sup>th</sup> highest victim rate for this reporting period.*

Note: Not all “accepted reports” result in investigations that are completed during the same period in which the corresponding report was accepted; therefore, completed investigations will not match the number of accepted reports in any given calendar year.



# Child Protective Services for Socorro County

SOURCE: NM Protective Services Fact Book, Annual – Calendar Year 2010

## PROTECTIVE SERVICES ALLEGATION TYPES BY COUNTY (ANNUAL) JANUARY – DECEMBER 2010

County	Physical Abuse					Sexual Abuse					Physical Neglect					Total Allegation Types				
	Substantiated		Unsubstantiated		Total	Substantiated		Unsubstantiated		Total	Substantiated		Unsubstantiated		Total	Substantiated		Unsubstantiated		Total
#	%	#	%	#		%	#	%	#		%	#	%	#		%	#	%	#	
Socorro	28	19.9	113	80.1	141	2	22.2	7	77.8	9	85	23.5	276	76.5	361	115	22.5	396	77.5	511
State Totals	2,338	17.6	10,978	82.4	13,316	211	16.7	1,056	83.3	1,267	6,988	21.9	24,908	78.1	31,896	9,537	20.5	36,942	79.5	46,479

Socorro 17<sup>th</sup> highest in NM for physical abuse

Socorro 9<sup>th</sup> highest in NM for sexual abuse

Socorro 15<sup>th</sup> highest in NM for physical neglect

Socorro 19<sup>th</sup> highest for substantiated

NOTE: Socorro County CPS reports being fully staffed for investigators (February 2012)

### NO RECURRENCE OF SUBSTANTIATED MALTREATMENT WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF A PREVIOUSLY SUBSTANTIATED REPORT OF MALTREATMENT (ANNUAL) JANUARY – DECEMBER 2010

County	# With No	% With No	Total #
Socorro	68	94.4%	72
State Totals	4,795	93.0%	5,155



*Of all children who were victims of substantiated abuse or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting period, what percent did not experience another incident of substantiated abuse and neglect within a 6 months period.*

State Fiscal Year 2011 New Mexico Performance Measure:  
At or above 93.0%

National Standard for Round II of the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR):  
At or above 94.6%



## Child Protective Services for Socorro County

SOURCE: NM Protective Services Fact Book, Annual – Calendar Year 2010

### CHILDREN NOT MALTREATED IN FOSTER CARE PERFORMANCE OVER 12 MONTHS 12 MONTHS ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2010

County	# With No Maltreatment in Foster Care	% With No Maltreatment in Foster Care	Total Served in Foster Care
Socorro	23	100.00%	23
State Totals	3,755	99.65%	3,768

*Of all children in foster care during the reporting period, what percent were not victims of a substantiated maltreatment by foster parent or facility staff member.*

State Fiscal Year 2011 New Mexico Performance Measure:  
At or above 99.68%

National Standard for Round II of the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR):  
At or above 99.68%

## Juvenile Justice Services for Socorro County

SOURCE: NM Juvenile Justice Services (Facilities), Youth & Family Services (JPO)  
Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Report

Judicial District 7 includes Catron, Sierra, Socorro and Torrance Counties  
Juvenile Justice Services Region 5 includes Judicial Districts 3, 6, 7 and 12

### FY08-11 NUMBER AND PERCENT CHANGE – REFERRALS BY COUNTY, REGION & DISTRICT

	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11*	% Change FY08-FY09	% Change FY09-FY10	% Change FY10-FY11	3 Yr % Change
Socorro Co.	235	339	183	166	44.26%	-46.02%	-9.29%	-29.36%
Judicial District 7	602	655	559	480	8.80%	-14.66%	-14.13%	-20.27%
Region 5	5,968	6,042	5,556	5,256	1.24%	-8.04%	-5.40%	-11.93%
Statewide	24,500	23,915	23,120	21,399	-2.39%	-3.32%	-7.44%	-12.66%

Source: CYFD FACTS Database -- \*RUN DATE: 10/15/11

A significantly larger 3-year reduction in referrals is noted for Socorro County (3 Yr % Change) compared to Judicial District 7, Region 5, and Statewide.





## Juvenile Justice Services for Socorro County

**SOURCE:** NM Juvenile Justice Services (Facilities), Youth & Family Services (JPO)  
Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Report

Judicial District 7 includes Catron, Sierra, Socorro and Torrance Counties  
Juvenile Justice Services Region 5 includes Judicial Districts 3, 6, 7 and 12

FY11 REFERRALS BY TYPE				
	Delinquent Referrals	Non Delinquent Referrals*	Probation Violation	Grand Total
<b>Socorro Co.</b>	132	14	20	166
<b>Region 5</b>	3,955	941	360	5,256
<b>Statewide</b>	17,699	2,333	1,367	21,399
Source: CYFD FACTS Database – RUN 10/15/11				
• Includes Truancy, Runaway, Incurrible				

FY05– FY11 DELINQUENT REFERRALS AS PERCENTAGE OF ALL REFERRALS						
	Delinquent Referrals		Non Delinquent Referrals		Probation Violation	
	FY 05	FY 11	FY 05	FY 11	FY 05	FY 11
<b>Judicial District 7</b>	89.1%	76.0%	4.7%	15.4%	6.3%	8.5%
<b>Statewide</b>	90.4%	82.7%	5.1%	10.9%	4.5%	6.4%
Source: CYFD FACTS Database						

A significant reduction in Delinquent Referrals and corresponding increase in Non Delinquent Referrals is noted from FY05 to FY11; there is an increase in referrals for probation violation.



## Juvenile Justice Services for Socorro County

**SOURCE:** NM Juvenile Justice Services (Facilities), Youth & Family Services (JPO)  
Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Report

### FY05 & FY10 CASE PROCESSING – PILOT AND RURAL SITES

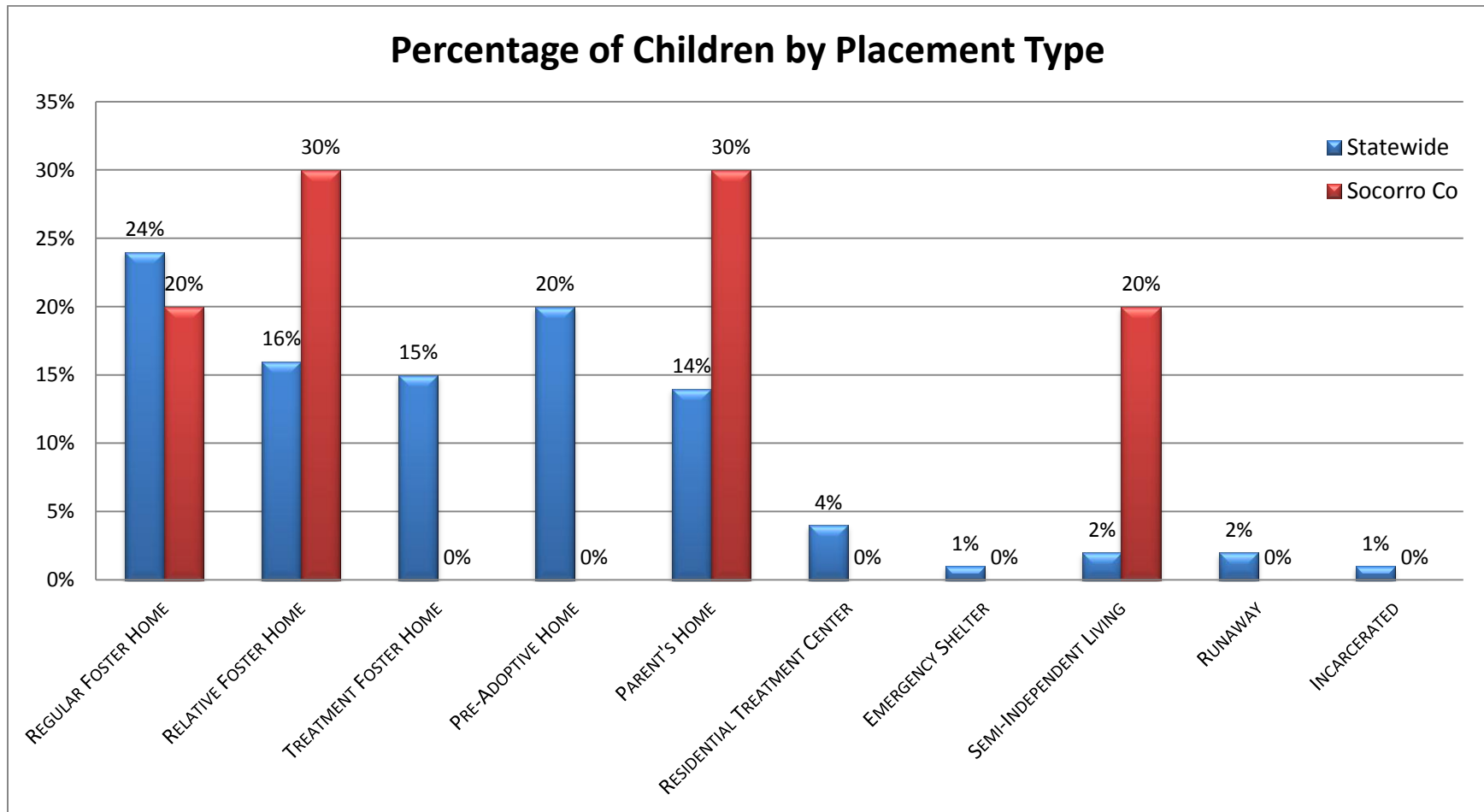
County	Average Days Incident to Referral		Average Days Referral to JPPO Decision		Average JPPO Decision to Filed		Average Days Filed to Disposition	
	FY05	FY10	FY05	FY10	FY05	FY10	FY05	FY10
Lea	11	12	14	12	26	33	86	59
Santa Fe	27	15	19	3	29	13	132	78
San Juan	30	35	14	13	50	14	116	92
Dona Ana	30	45	17	6	20	15	101	90
Socorro	34	17	29	13	28	11	119	107
Cibola	20	42	24	17	41	16	231	160
Torrance	31	17	24	19	15	30	98	115
	25	26	21	11	32	24	113	106

There is a significant decrease in average days from incident to referral, from referral to JPPO decision, and from JPPO decision to filed; there is also a decrease in average days filed to disposition.

# NM Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board

Source: 2011 Annual Report and Recommendations

CRB reviewed 10 children in custody from Socorro County; some were reviewed more than once for a total of 13 reviews during Fiscal Year 2009: July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010



# NM Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board

Source: 2011 Annual Report and Recommendations

CRB reviewed 10 children in custody from Socorro County; some were reviewed more than once for a total of 13 reviews during Fiscal Year 2009: July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

## CHILDREN AND PARENT FACTORS

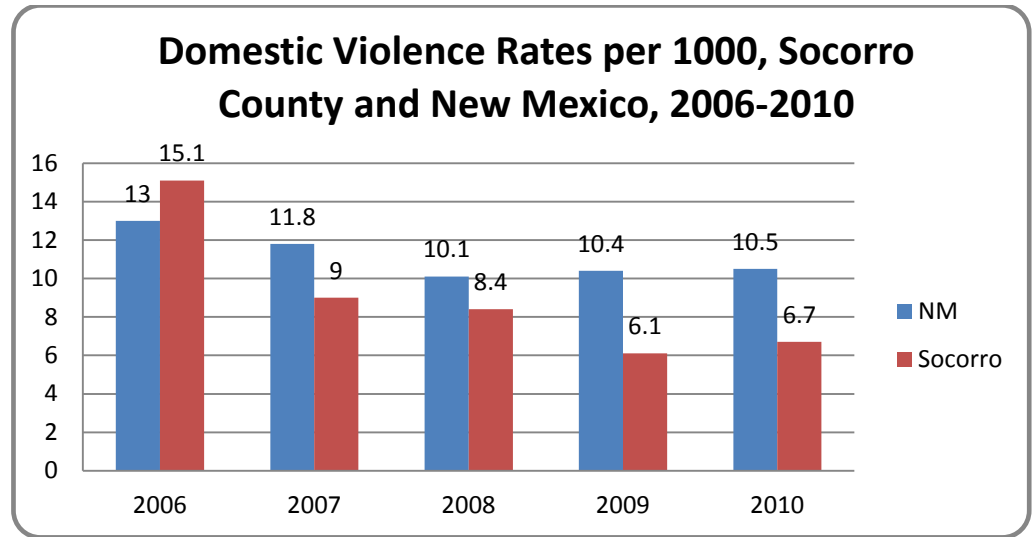
Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Statewide	59%	49%	17%	34%
Socorro County	70%	50%	0%	60%

Parents Who: (Excludes parents with unknown identity or whereabouts)^	Had a History of Substance Abuse		Were Impacted by Domestic Violence		Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing		Had Inadequate Financial Resources	
	Mother	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	Father
Statewide	77%	72%	63%	59%	72%	62%	77%	67%
Socorro County	67%	50%	67%	30%	56%	100%	89%	80%

^ Statewide, the identity or whereabouts of 36% of Fathers and 19% of Mothers was unknown.

# Domestic Violence

Socorro County's ranking improved from 4<sup>th</sup> highest in 2006 to 18<sup>th</sup> in 2010.



**Clients Served by Domestic Violence Service Providers in Socorro County, 2006-2010**

SOCORRO	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
ADULTS	*	*	277	279	218
CHILDREN	*	*	139	101	32
OFFENDERS	*	*	366	163	184

\* No Service Provider Reporting

Source: Incidence and Nature of Domestic Violence in New Mexico X: An Analysis of 2010 Data from the New Mexico Interpersonal Violence Data Central Repository ([http://www.nmcsp.org/Betty\\_Caponeira\\_DV\\_in\\_NM\\_X\\_2010\\_Data\\_web.pdf](http://www.nmcsp.org/Betty_Caponeira_DV_in_NM_X_2010_Data_web.pdf))

# Population

## Socorro County:

- Socorro County experienced a 1.05% decrease in total population between the 2000 and 2010 Census from 18,056 to 17,866. Population density is 2.7 people/square mile.
- A 16.8% decrease occurred in the population under 18 years of age, a 14.95% decrease occurred in the population below age 20, and an 11.79% decrease occurred in ages 20 to 44.
- The population for ages 45 to 64 increased by 21.52%, and a 28.84% increase occurred for ages 65 and over.
- The Hispanic population decreased by 1.59% from 8,804 to 8,664.

## Incorporated Municipalities:

- City of Socorro experienced a 1.96% increase in total population between the 2000 and 2010 Census from 8,877 to 9,051.
- Magdalena experienced a 2.74% increase in total population between the 2000 and 2010 Census from 913 to 938.

## Alamo Navajo Chapter:

- According to the 2000 US Census the Native American population reported for the Alamo Navajo Chapter was 2,072. 2010 Census data for the Navajo Nation in New Mexico is slated for release in July 2012.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; data prepared by Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of New Mexico



## Human Services Department Data: Socorro County

Source: NM Human Services Department Monthly Statistical Report, December 2011

### *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) December 2011*

- Socorro County's TANF Recipient Rate is 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 33

Socorro:	1.8%	322 Recipients
NM:	2.4%	

### *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) December 2011*

- Socorro County has 8th highest SNAP Recipient Rate in NM

Socorro:	27.5%	4,907 Recipients
NM:	21.2%	

### *Medicaid Eligibles in Socorro County*

December 2010:	5,267 Eligible
December 2011:	5,206 Eligible
Socorro County Change:	- 1.2%
NM Change:	+ 1.6%

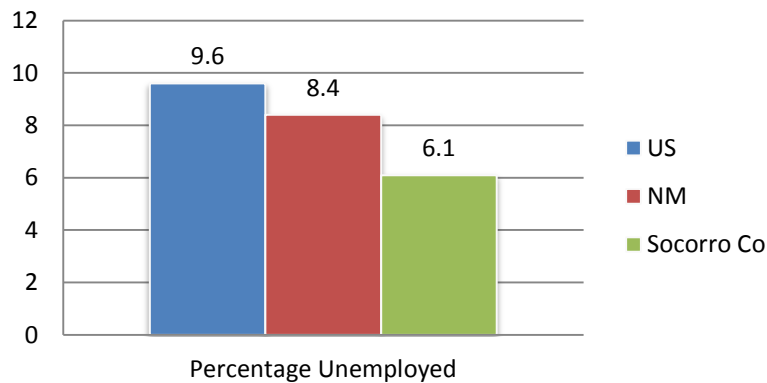
### *Socorro Co. Children Receiving Child Care Assistance Subsidies*

December 2010:	76
December 2011:	70
Socorro County Change:	-7.9%
NM Change:	+ 1.1%

NOTE: Food insecurity is identified as a challenge by a number of stakeholders interviewed.

# Socorro County Health Highlights from the NM Department of Health Indicator Based Information System for Public Health (NM-IBIS).

### Percentage Unemployed 2010



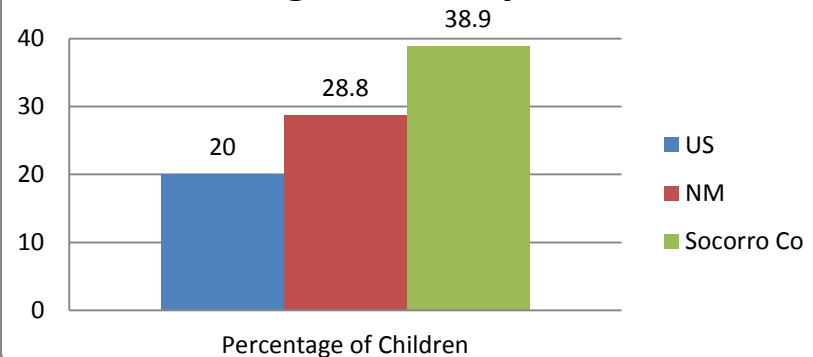
Socorro County's 2010 percentage of unemployed was lower than for NM and the US. Household income is strongly related to health status for all persons in the household.

SOURCE: NM Indicator Based Information System  
<http://ibis.health.state.nm.us/community/highlight/Unemploy.Cnty/GeoCnty/53.html>

Socorro County's percentage of children living in poverty in 2009 was 4<sup>th</sup> highest in the State. Poverty in early years of a child's life has especially harmful effects on continuing healthy development and well-being. Well-being in later childhood (teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and educational attainment) is also influenced by early childhood poverty.

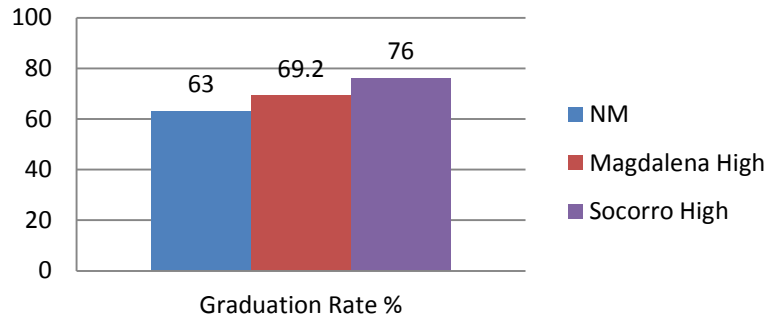
SOURCE: NM Indicator Based Information System  
<http://ibis.health.state.nm.us/community/highlight/NMPopDemoChildPov.Cnty/GeoCnty/53.html>

### % Children Under Age 18 Living in Poverty, 2009





## NM High School Graduation Rates, 4-year Cohort, 2011



*Note: 4-Year Cohort not available for Alamo Navajo Community School*

Education level is strongly related to health status. For adolescent females, teenage pregnancy is the leading reason for not graduating; early parenting also affects young males who leave school to support a child.

SOURCE: <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/Graduation/dl11/4-Year%20Cohort%20Graduation%20Rates,%20Class%20of%202010.pdf>

## 2010-2011 Attendance Rates (%) for Elementary and Middle Schools

Source: New Mexico Public Education Department – School Accountability Report 2011-2012

Parkview Elementary	93.88%	Cottonwood Valley Charter	94.68%
Midway Elementary	96.81%	San Antonio Elementary	94.55%
Zimmerly Elementary	94.11%	R Sarracino Middle School	95.89%
Magdalena Elementary	94.31%	Magdalena Middle School	91.61%
La Promesa Elementary	94.80%		

## Annual Report Card SY 2009-2010, Alamo Navajo Community School

Source: Bureau of Indian Education School Report Cards

Average Daily Attendance Rate K-8	90.3%
Average Daily Attendance Rate 9-12	84.3%
Graduation Rate (High School)	31.82%



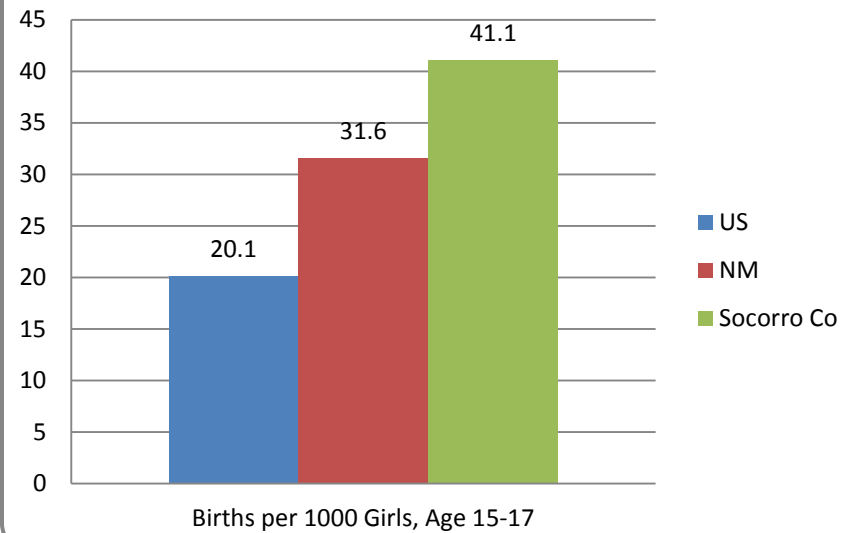
Socorro County rated 9<sup>th</sup> highest in the State for this measure. Early pregnancy and childbearing is closely linked to a host of other critical issues (poverty and income disparity, overall child well-being, out-of-wedlock births, and education).

SOURCE: NM Indicator Based Information System  
[http://ibis.health.state.nm.us/community/highlight/BirthTeen.15\\_17.Cnty/GeoCnty/53.html](http://ibis.health.state.nm.us/community/highlight/BirthTeen.15_17.Cnty/GeoCnty/53.html)

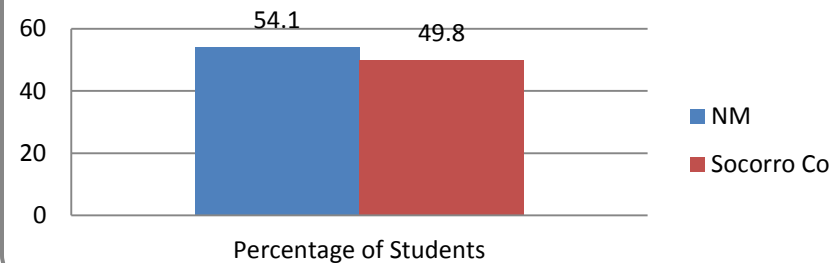
Socorro County rated 7<sup>th</sup> lowest of the 31 counties included in this measure. Students who report high levels of this relationship are less likely to use alcohol, drugs or tobacco; to be involved in violence; to experience suicidal ideation; or to engage in high risk sexual practices.

SOURCE: NM Indicator Based Information System  
<http://ibis.health.state.nm.us/community/highlight/CareSuppRelatFamily.Cnty/GeoCnty/57.html>

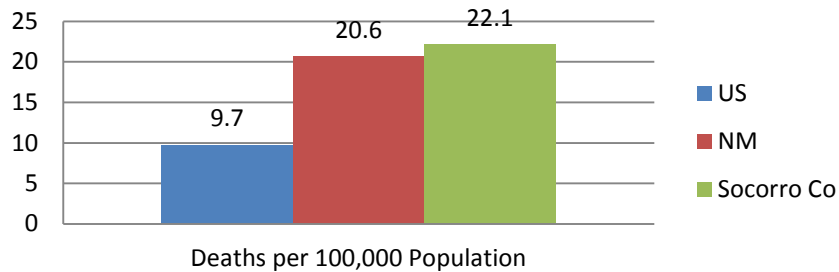
### Teen Birth Rate, Girls Age 15-17, 2007-2009



### % Youth With a Caring and Supportive Relationship in the Family, Students in Grades 9-12, 2009



## Suicide Death Rates Among Youth 15-24 Years, New Mexico 2005- 2009 and US 2007



Socorro County and NM rates are significantly higher than the national rate. Adolescent suicide is a public health problem of considerable magnitude in New Mexico. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in youth 15-24 years of age.

SOURCE: NM Indicator Based Information System  
<http://ibis.health.state.nm.us/community/highlight/SuicDeathYouth.Cnty/GeoCnty/57.html>

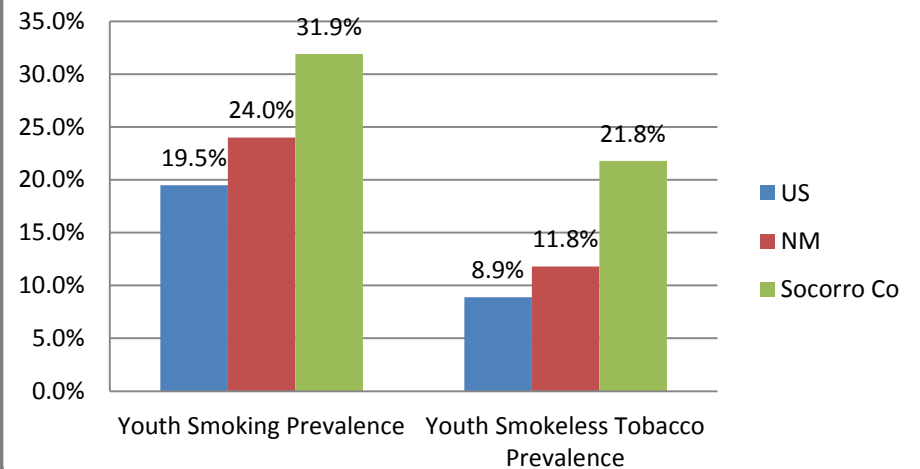


Socorro County rates 2<sup>nd</sup> highest for smoking prevalence and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest for smokeless tobacco prevalence. Smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in the US. One in five adults and one in four youth smoke in NM. Smokeless tobacco products pose health risks such as oral cancer and can lead to nicotine addiction and dependence. The use of smokeless tobacco appears to be increasing in rural areas in NM.

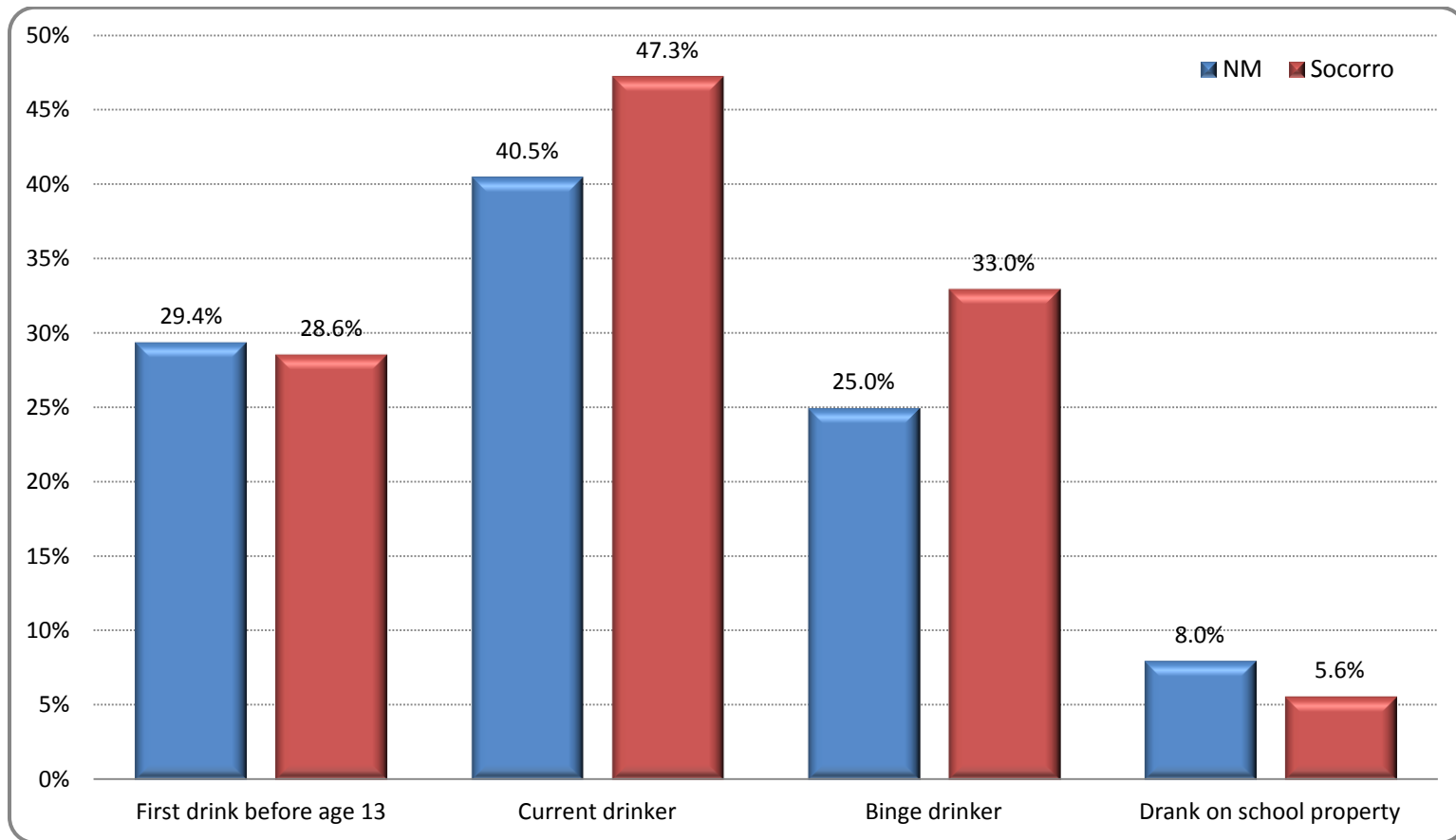
SOURCE: NM Indicator Based Information System  
<http://ibis.health.state.nm.us/community/highlight/TobaccoSmokeYouth.Cnty/GeoCnty/57.html>

[http://ibis.health.state.nm.us/indicator/view/TobaccoSmokelessYouth.Year.NM\\_US.html](http://ibis.health.state.nm.us/indicator/view/TobaccoSmokelessYouth.Year.NM_US.html)

## 2009 Tobacco Use Prevalence, Grades 9-12






## Alcohol Use NM and Socorro County, Grades 9-12, 2009 NM YRRS



**SOURCE:** NM Department of Health and Public Education Department's New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

## Behaviors of Current Drinkers:

### (Students in Grades 9-12 reporting alcohol use in past 30 days)

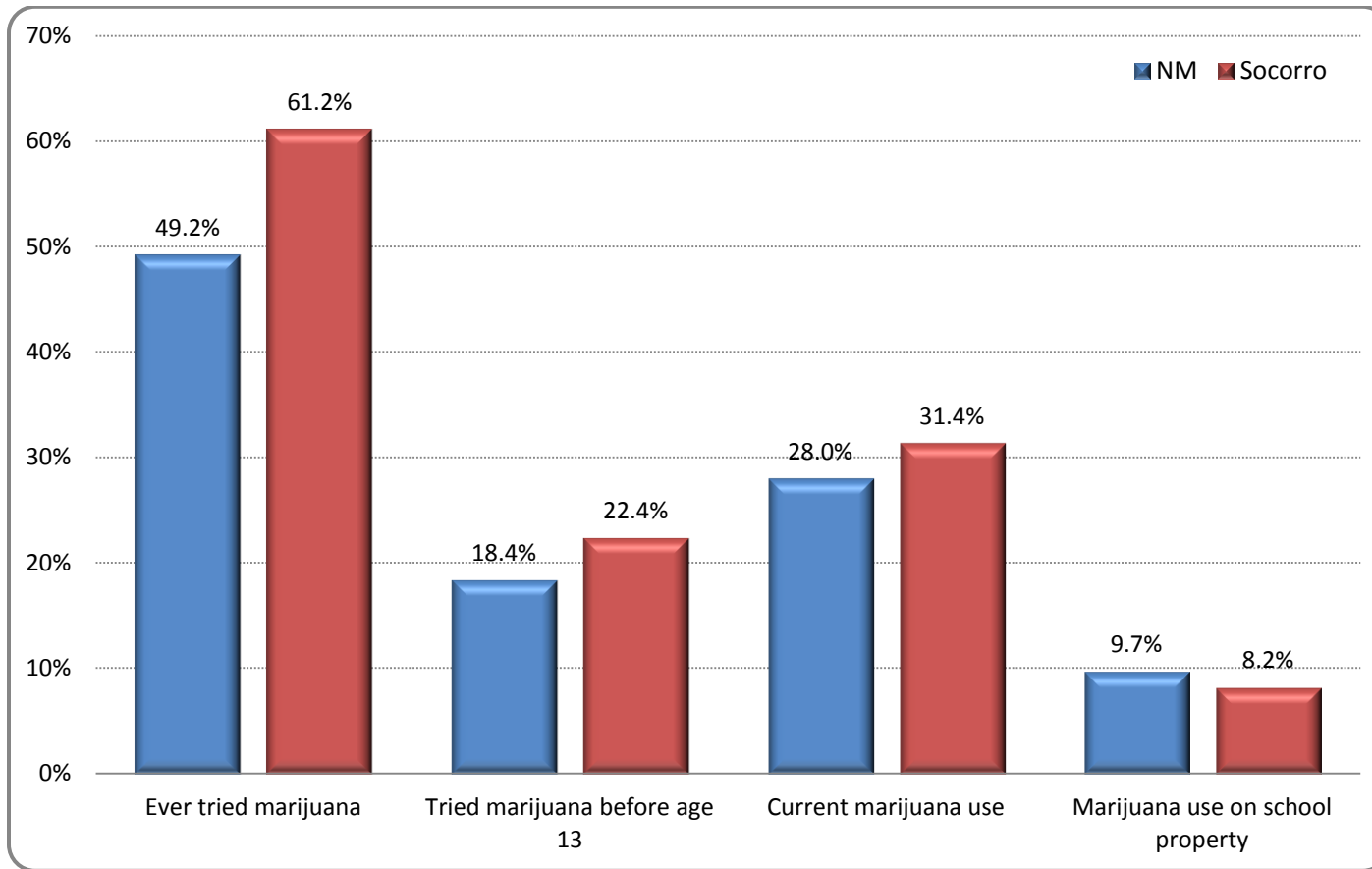
- 47.3% of Socorro County youth report drinking in the past month compared with the statewide percentage of 40.5%
- 33.0% of Socorro County youth report drinking five or more drinks in a row (binge drinking) compared with 25.0% statewide 
- How Alcohol was Obtained: 18.4% in Socorro County (21.8% NM) report they gave money to someone else to buy for them, 45.1%  (37.4% NM) report someone gave them alcohol, 10.5% (9.9% NM) report they took from a store or their family, and 22.3% (26.9% NM) report “Other” as the source
- Where Drinking Occurred: 23.6% of Socorro County youth (24.4% NM) report drinking at home; 69.1% (60.3% NM) report drinking in another home 

## Perceptions of Alcohol Risk and Parental Disapproval (Grades 9-12)

- Socorro County youth reportedly perceive less risk and disapproval associated with youth alcohol use when compared to NM.
- 42.4% Socorro County youth (46.7% NM) report that adults think alcohol use by youth is wrong; 67.3% (62.9% NM) report parents think it would be wrong for them to use alcohol; 33.0% (35.4% NM) report they think youth alcohol use is wrong; and 36.8% (41.2% NM) report that people face great risk from daily use.

**SOURCE:** NM Department of Health and Public Education Department’s New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

## Marijuana Use NM and Socorro County, Grades 9-12, 2009 NM YRRS



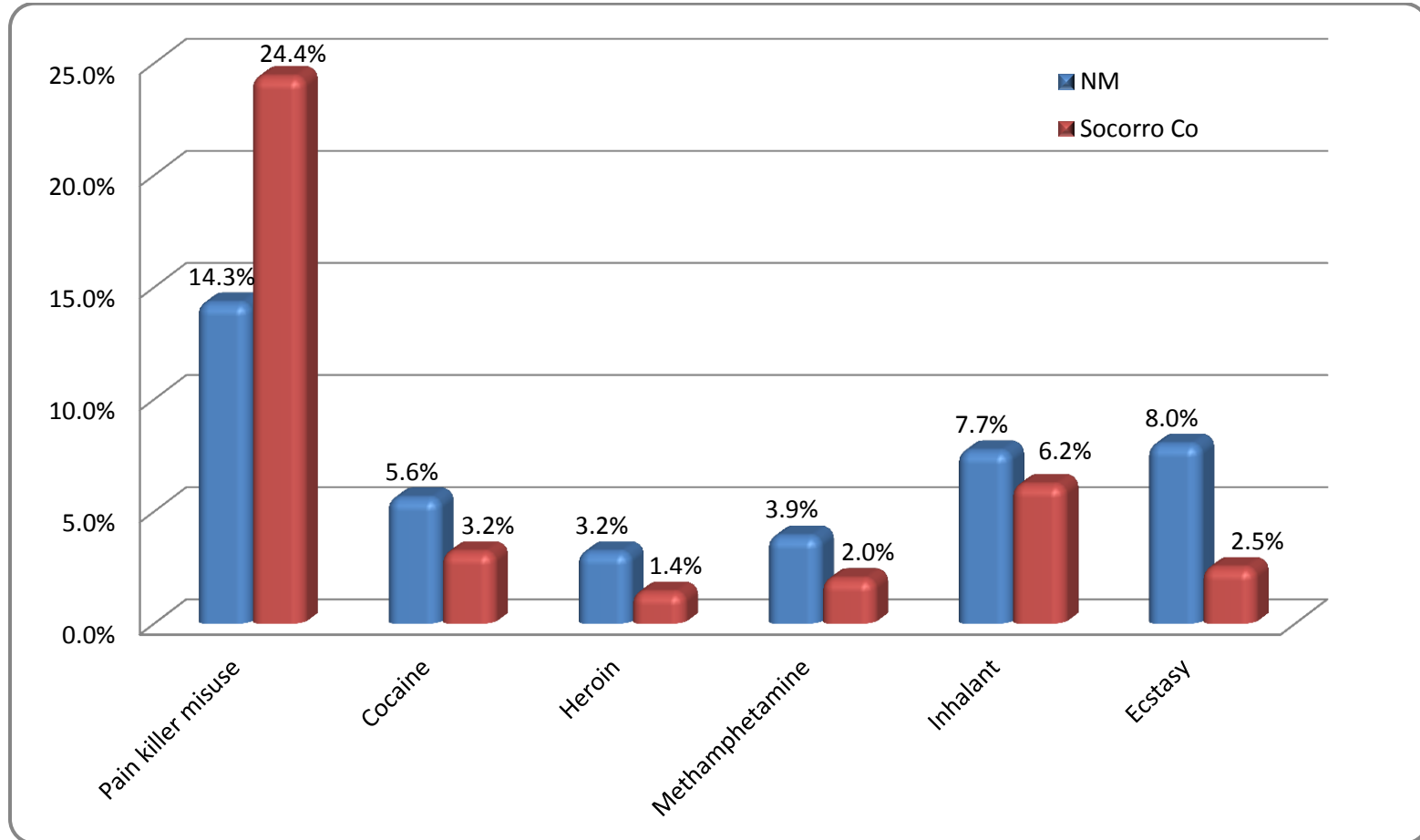
**SOURCE:** NM Department of Health and Public Education Department's New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

## Perceptions of Marijuana Risk and Parental Disapproval (Grades 9-12)

- 73.7% Socorro County youth (75.3% NM) report parents think it would be wrong for them to use marijuana; and 33.2% (39.2% NM) report that people face great risk from regular marijuana use.

**SOURCE:** NM Department of Health and Public Education Department's New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

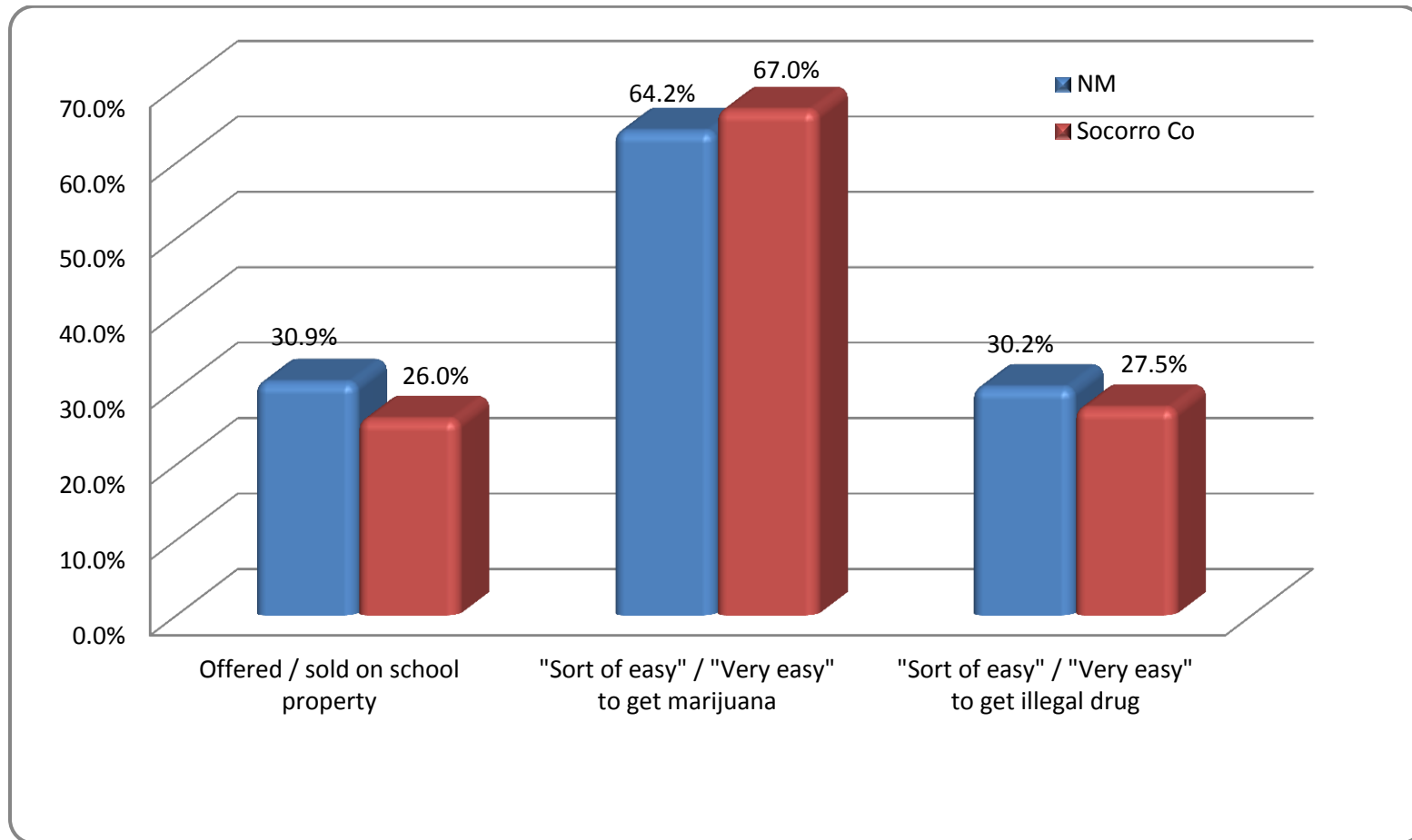
## Current Drug Use (Past 30 Days) NM and Socorro County, Grades 9-12, 2009 NM YRRS



**SOURCE:** NM Department of Health and Public Education Department's New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

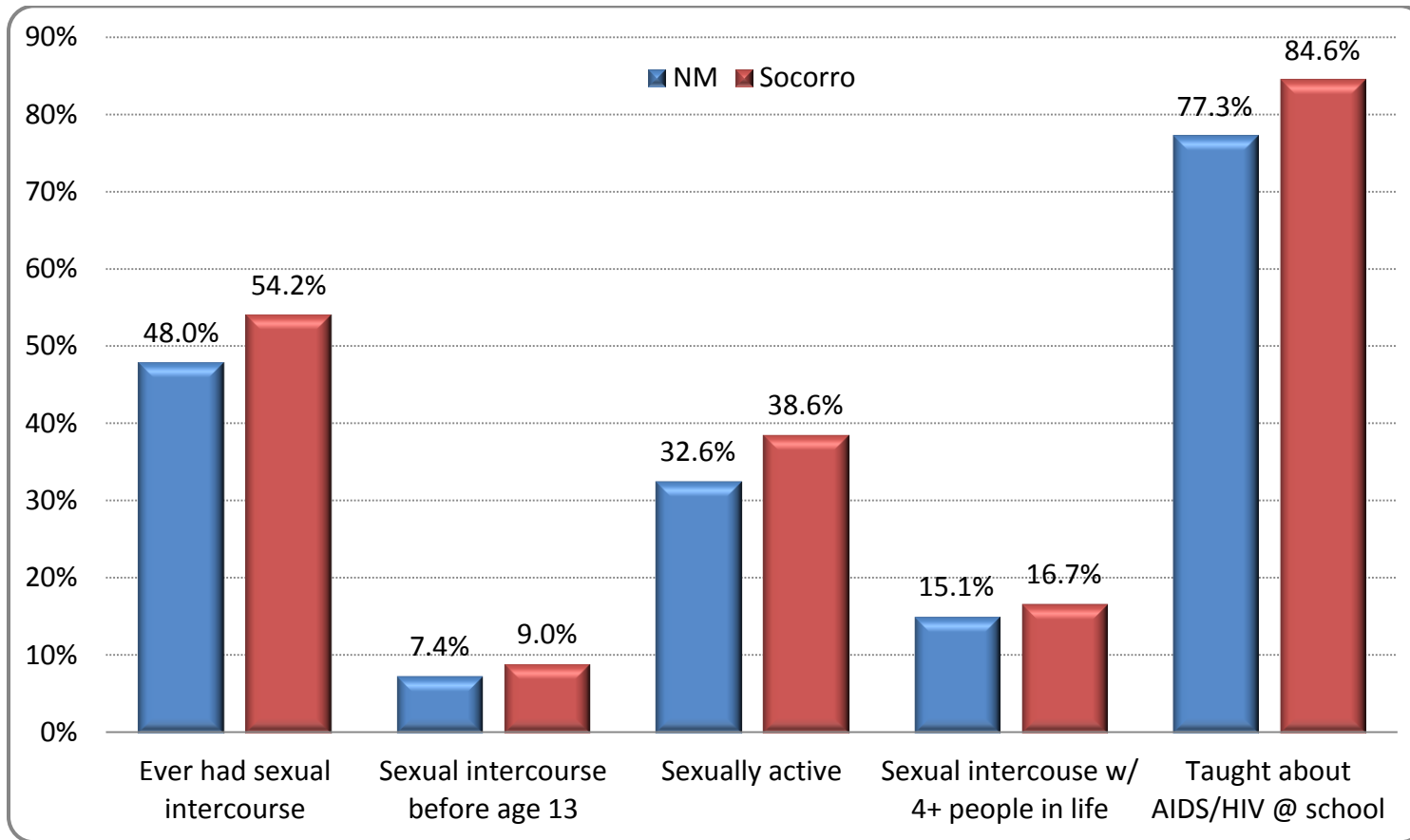


## Access to Drugs NM and Socorro County, Grades 9-12, 2009 NM YRRS



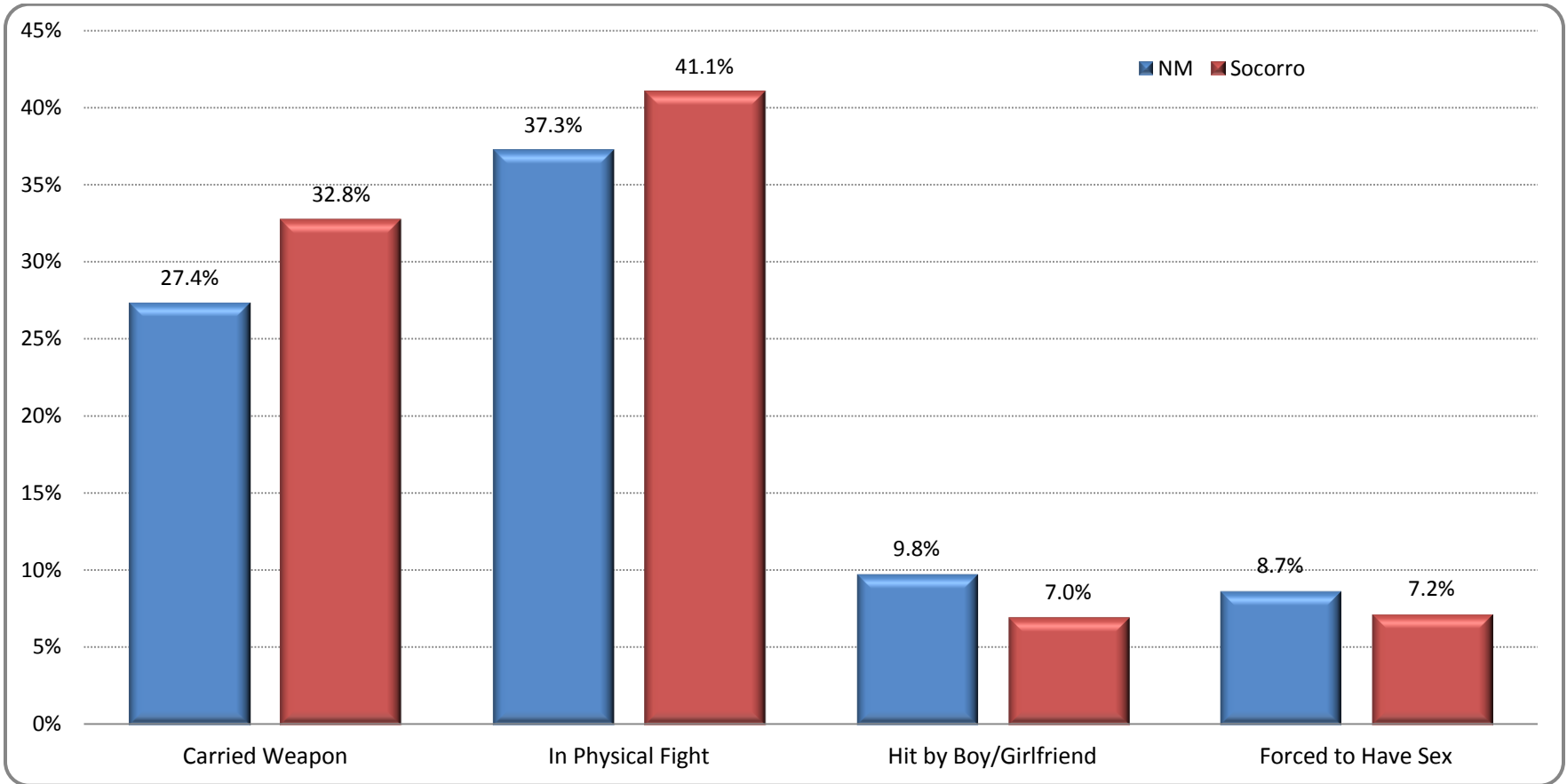
**SOURCE:** NM Department of Health and Public Education Department's New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

## Sexual Behavior NM and Socorro County, Grades 9-12, 2009 YRRS



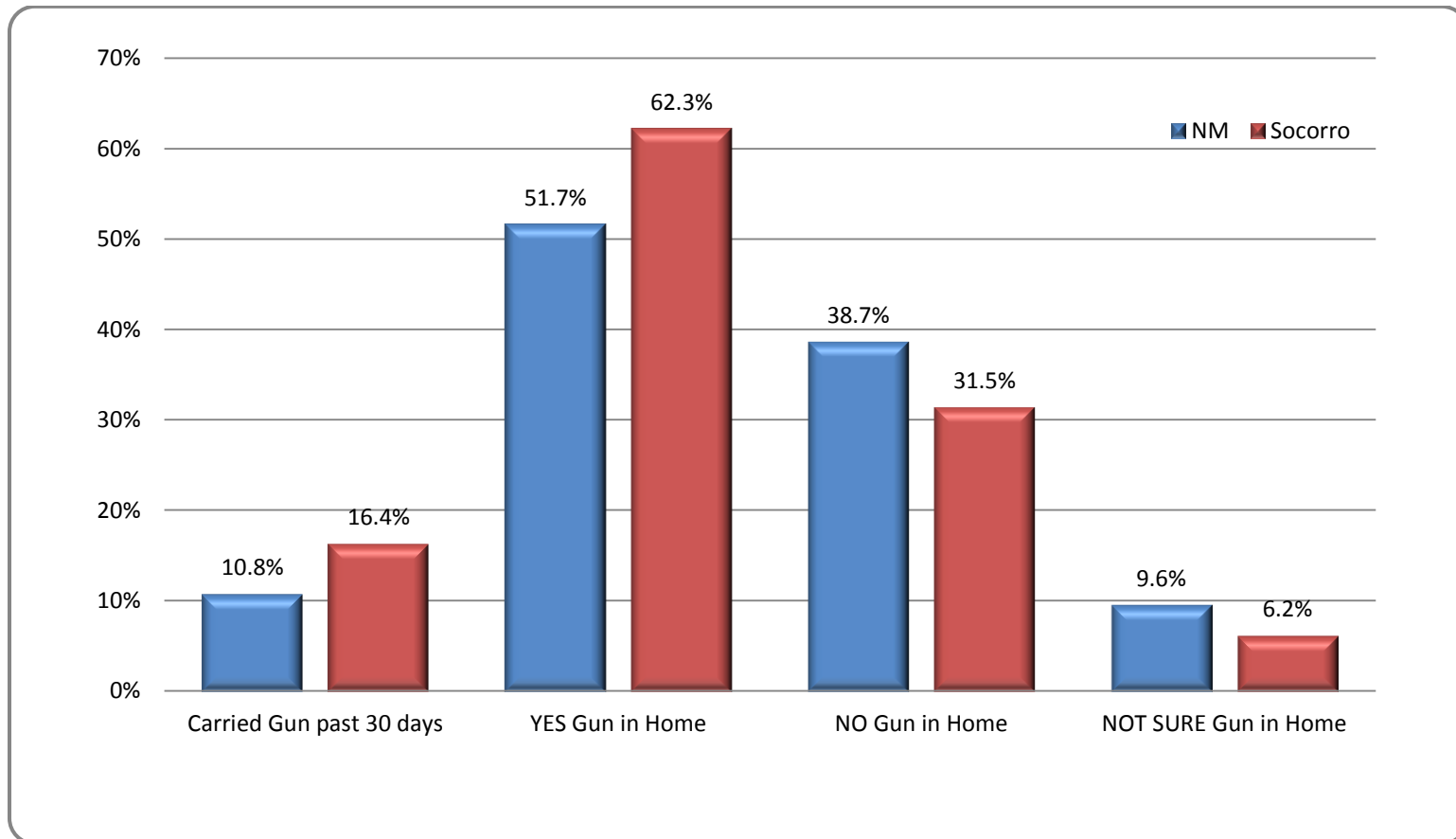
**SOURCE:** NM Department of Health and Public Education Department's New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

# Personal Safety: Behaviors and Experiences Associated with Violence NM and Socorro County, Grades 9-12, 2009 YRRS



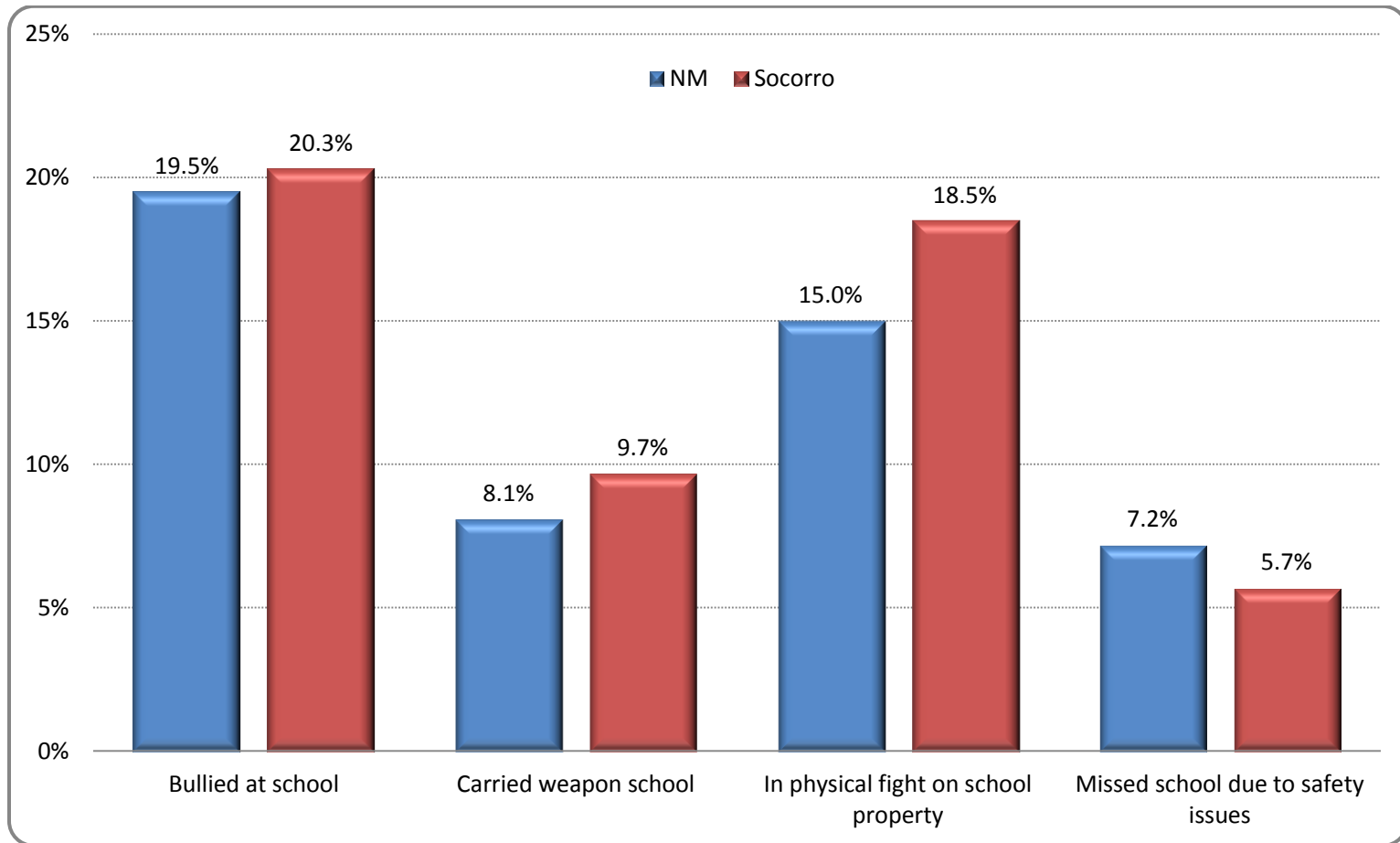
**SOURCE:** NM Department of Health and Public Education Department's New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

## Personal Safety: Injury NM and Socorro County, Grades 9-12, 2009 YRRS



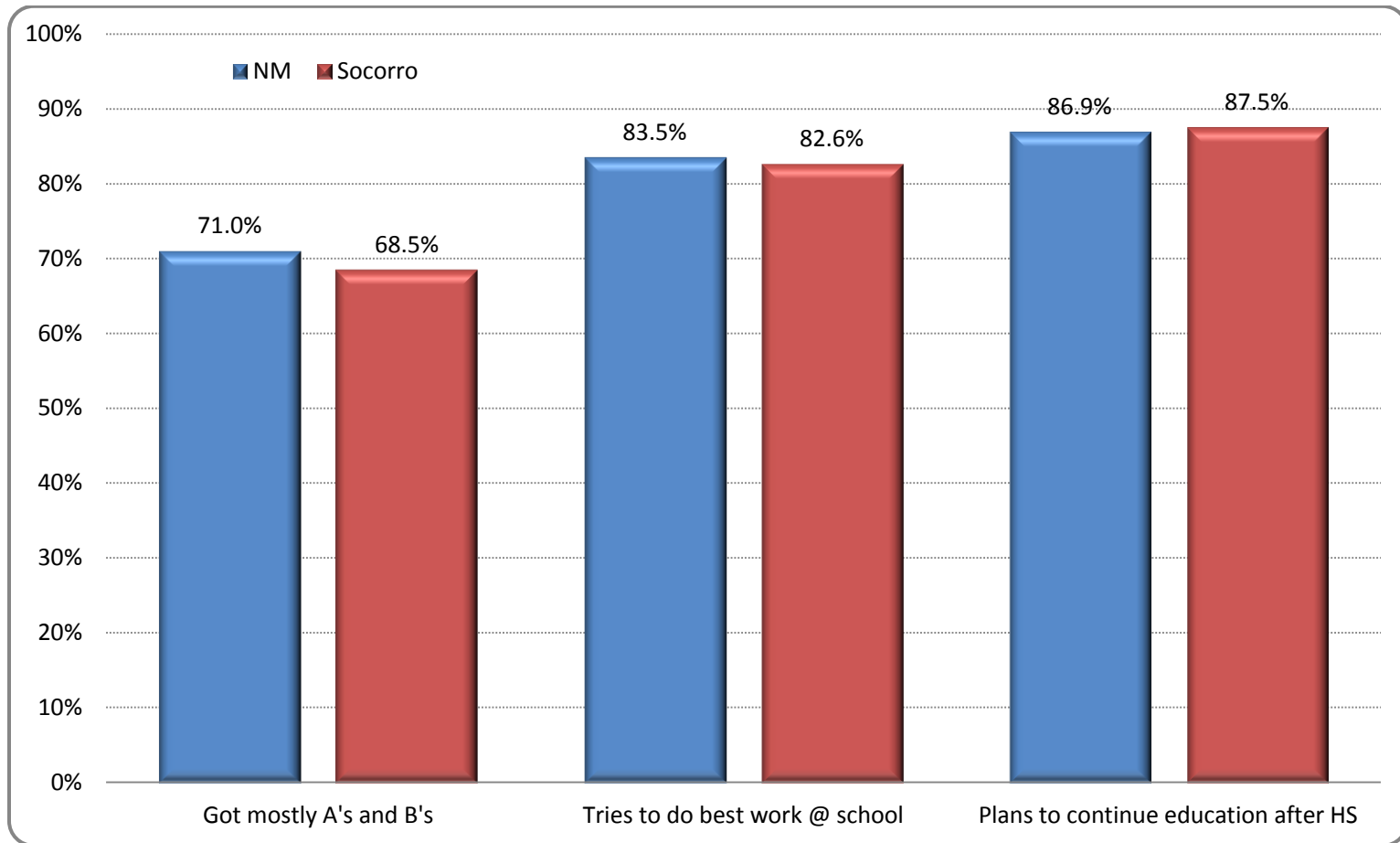
**SOURCE:** NM Department of Health and Public Education Department's New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

## Personal Safety: Schools and Violence NM and Socorro County, Grades 9-12, 2009 YRRS



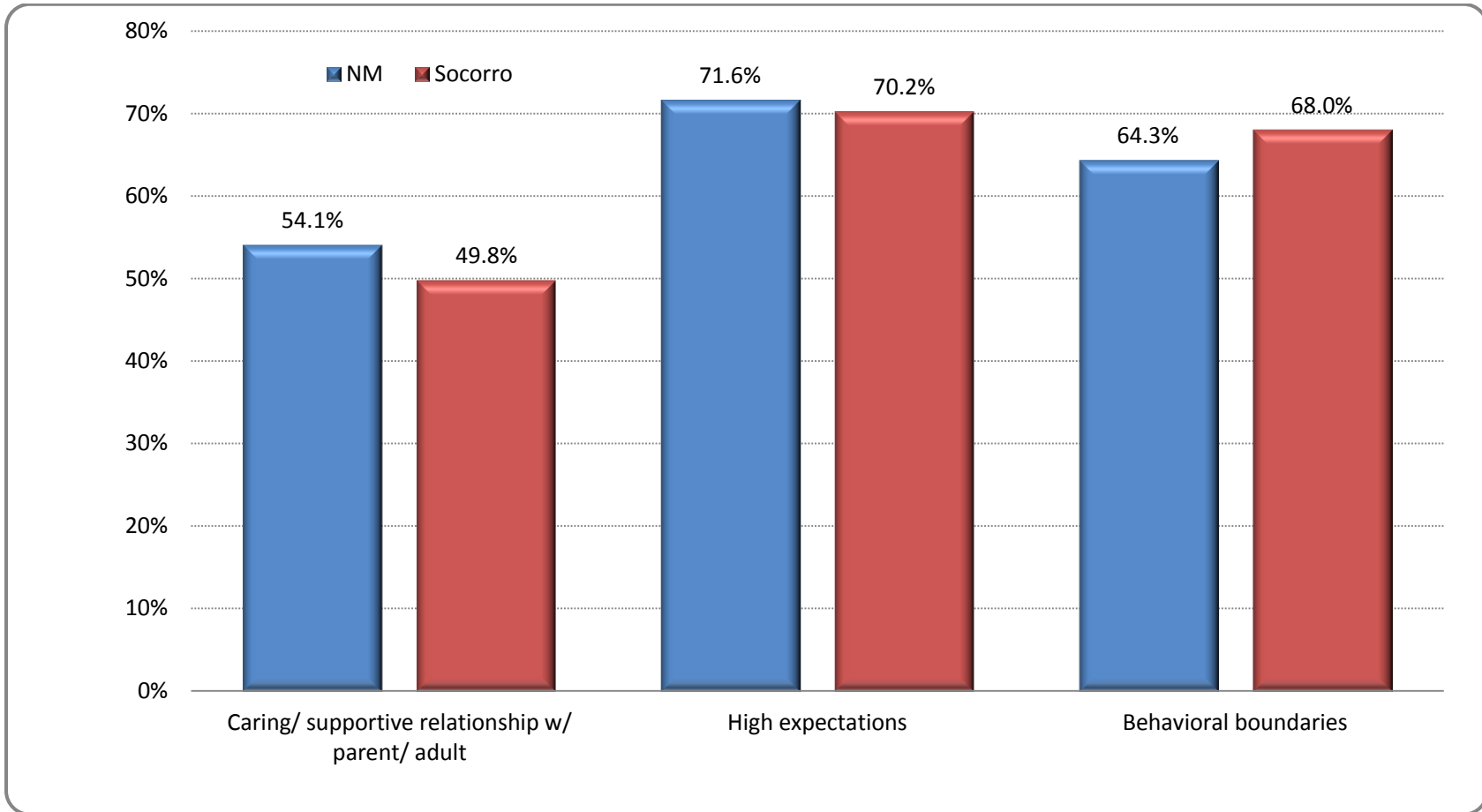
**SOURCE:** NM Department of Health and Public Education Department's New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

## Academic Measures NM and Socorro County, Grades 9-12, 2009 YRRS



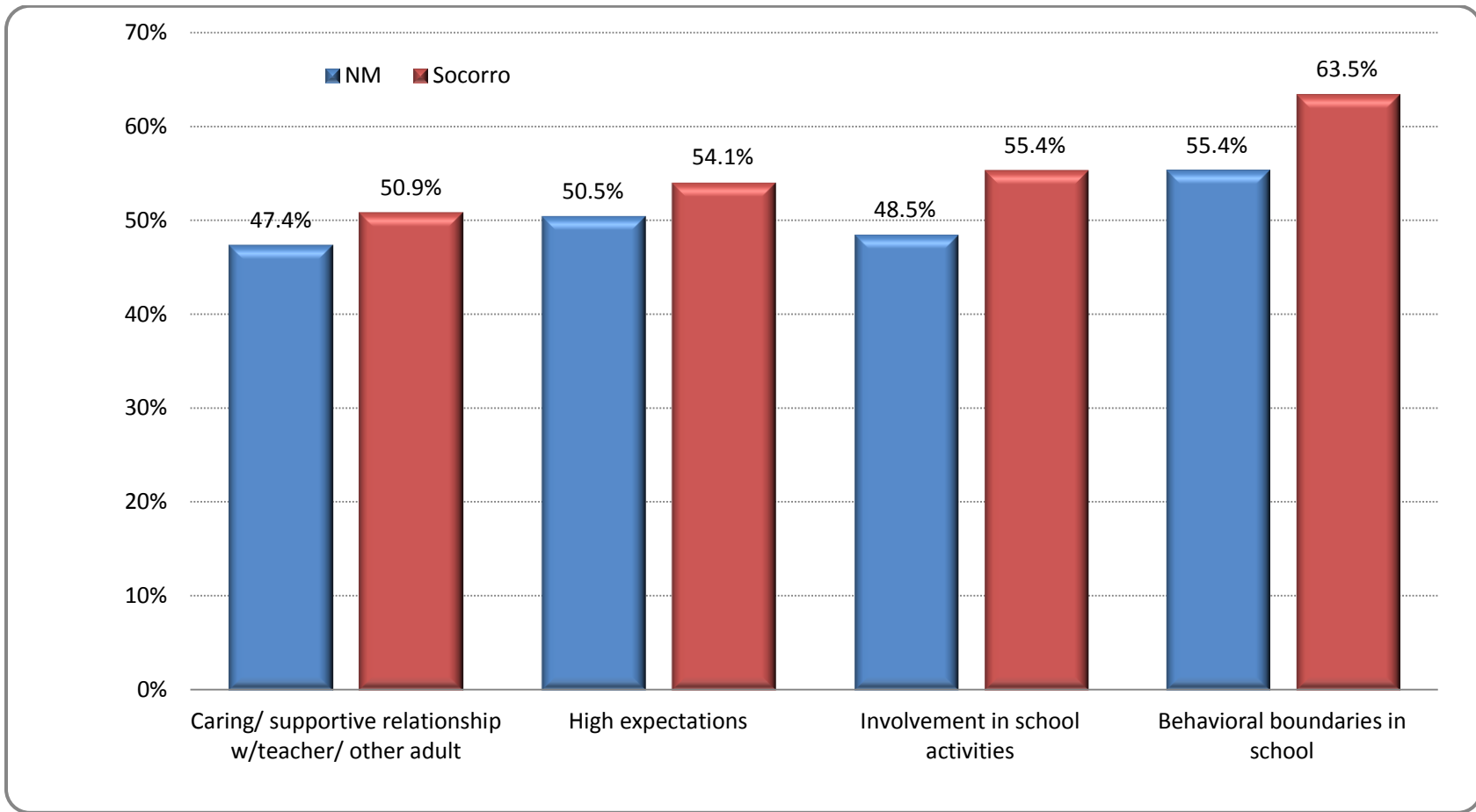
**SOURCE:** NM Department of Health and Public Education Department's New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

## Protective Factors in the Home NM and Socorro County, Grades 9-12, 2009 YRRS



**SOURCE:** NM Department of Health and Public Education Department's New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

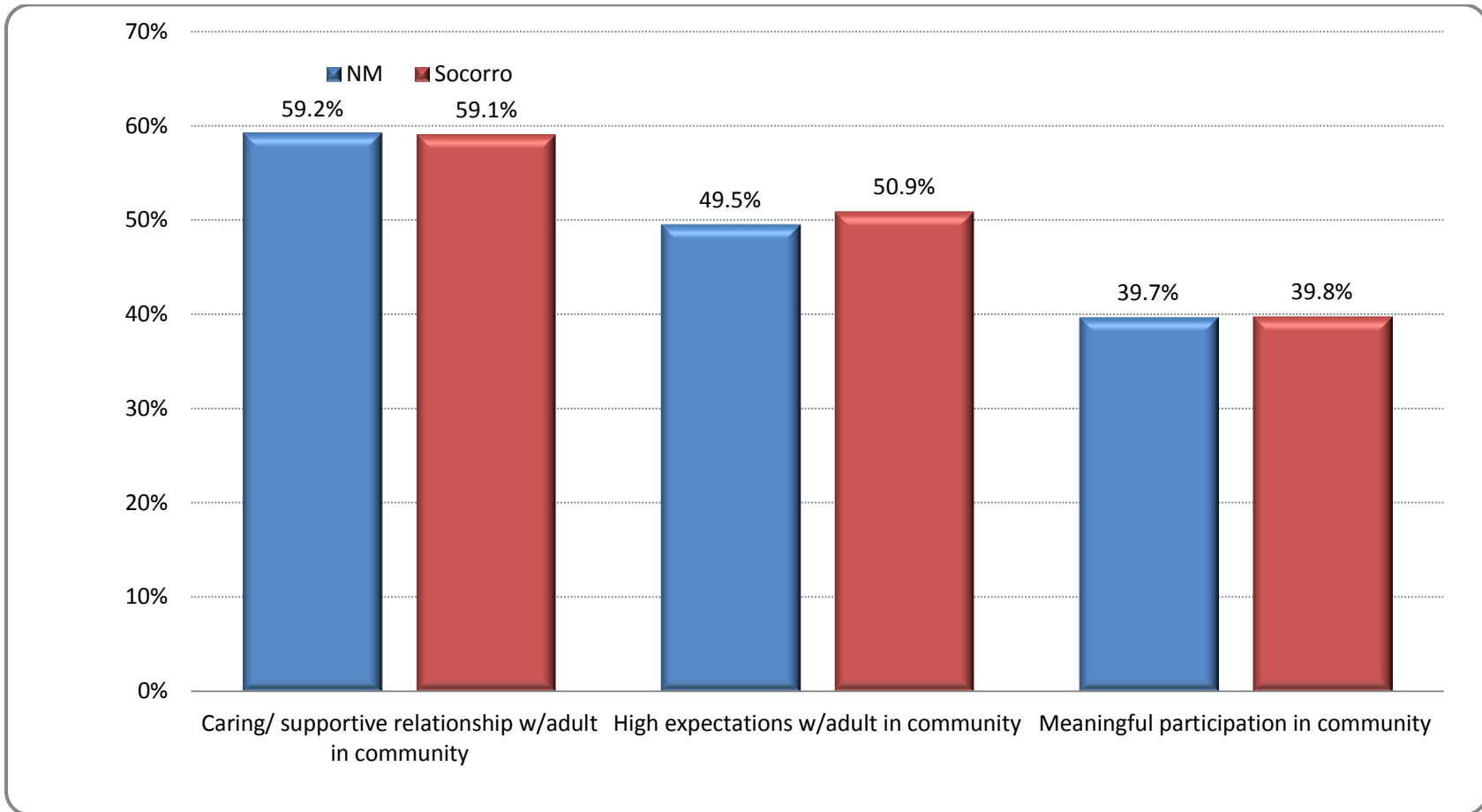
## Protective Factors in the School NM and Socorro County, Grades 9-12, 2009 YRRS



**SOURCE:** NM Department of Health and Public Education Department's New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

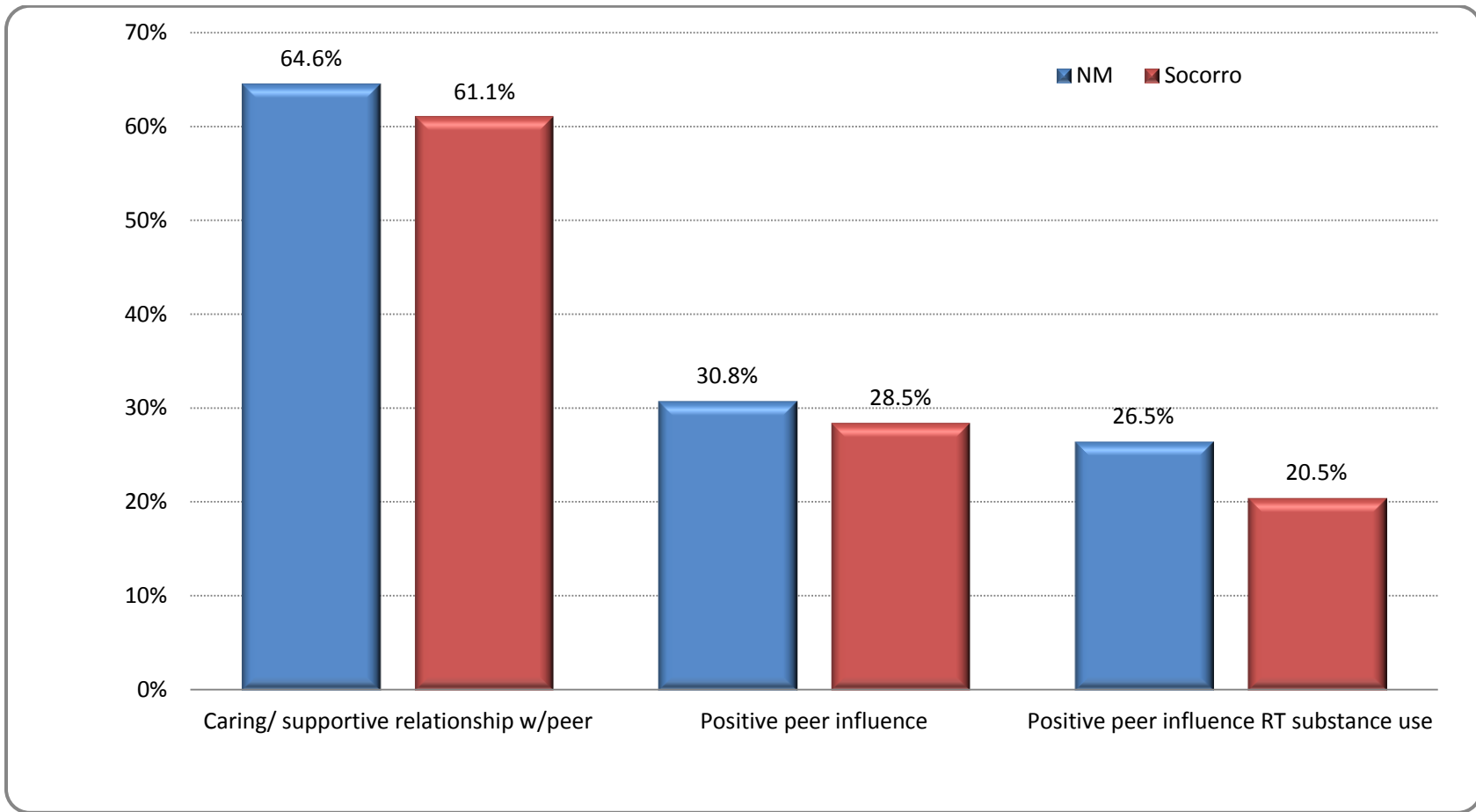


## Protective Factors in the Community NM and Socorro County, Grades 9-12, 2009 YRRS



**SOURCE:** NM Department of Health and Public Education Department's New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

## Protective Factors: Peer Relationships NM and Socorro County, Grades 9-12, 2009 YRRS



**SOURCE:** NM Department of Health and Public Education Department's New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

## 5. INVENTORY OF SERVICES/ SUPPORTS/ INTERVENTIONS

Prevention Needs Assessment (at-risk youth)					
Program Components					
Program	Available? (Yes/No)	Description	If Available:  Does program meet demand? (Yes/No)	If <u>Not</u> Available:  Is program needed/ planned? (Yes/No)	Select program to fill identified gap? (Yes/No)
Drug Testing	Yes	Adjudicated delinquents; CYFD JPO; DWI Program; parents; Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) works in home, in the schools and with the courts.	Yes		
Drug/ Alcohol Education		DWI Program; psychosocial education through Socorro Mental Health & Tierra Luna	No		
Employment / Job Skills Training	Yes	Employment for at-risk and low-income: YCC programs; Work-Study if IEP; Work Force Solutions KEYS Training; DVR; Juvenile Community Corrections; component of MST case management – support youth in meeting their goals	No		Yes
Life / Social Skills Training	Yes	Socorro Youth Center, church youth organizations, Juvenile Community Corrections, Socorro Mental Health (Fatherhood program, anger management & crisis management), GRADS program, dance groups. Lost funding for Socorro Teens are Recruiting Students (STARS) and Veguita Teens are Gathering Students (VTAGS).	No		Yes
Victim Awareness	Yes	DA's victims advocate; no victim mediation. Could Restorative Circles be implemented?	No		Yes
Mentoring	No	Faith-based groups through Catholic and First Baptist churches. Formal and informal one-on-one mentoring has been identified as a significant need since Boys & Girls Club is no longer operating.		Yes	No
Law-Related Education	Yes	Rotating School Resource Officers at middle school; MST works with kids in the system on informal probation; RESPECT program for high school seniors.	No		No

Prevention Needs Assessment (at-risk youth)

Prevention Needs Assessment (at-risk youth)					
Anger Management	Yes	Juvenile Community Corrections, Juvenile Probation Office, Socorro Mental Health, MST individual counseling if referred	No		Yes
Family Counseling	Yes	Socorro Mental Health, MST, Tierra Luna, church youth pastors	No		No
Tutoring	Yes	Required through No Child Left Behind; free to qualifying students -- little participation among those eligible. Credit Recovery Programs. Socorro Youth Center, Juvenile Community Corrections	Yes		
Remedial Education	Yes	PLATO, AIM HIGH	No		No
Crisis Intervention	Yes	Socorro Mental Health available 24/7; MST available 24/7; CPS; schools refer to Socorro Mental Health	Yes		

Immediate Sanctions Needs Assessment

Immediate Sanctions Needs Assessment					
Program	Available? (Yes/No)	Description	If Available: Does program meet demand? (Yes/No)	If <u>Not</u> Available: Is program needed/ planned? (Yes/No)	Select program to fill identified gap? (Yes/No)
Teen Courts / Peer Judges	No	Teen Court recommended		Yes	
Intake Conferences	Yes	Preliminary inquiry with parent, child and JPO for all delinquent cases. Diversion classes for 1 <sup>st</sup> time offenders.	Yes		
Family Group Conferencing	No	Not available from therapeutic involvement; need parenting groups.		Yes	Yes

Drug Court	No	Drug Court not available for juvenile population, however counselor from Drug Court provides intensive outpatient program for 17+ offenders.		Yes	Yes
Diversion Program	Yes	Diversion Classes for first-time offenders re drug and alcohol abuse -- would like to expand to 6-week course to cover violence, substance abuse and minor offenses. District Attorney's office offers a Pre-Prosecution Diversion Program.	No, would like to expand		Yes
Mediation Program	No	JPO: Need for victim-offender mediation program for adjudicated youth.		Yes	
Restitution (monetary)	Yes	If adjudicated, District Court can order restitution for damages; condition of probation.	Yes		
Fines / Fees	Yes	Fines for traffic citations in Magistrate Court; fines for DWI's in District Court	Yes		
Truancy Intervention Program	No	District-wide policy on enforcement of student attendance; disciplinary measures imposed upon students are at the discretion of each Principal or his/her designee. JPO perception is that truancy is not generally reported except from lower elementary. Issues with schools completing required documentation; CYFD central intake screens out many reports. Schools could be educated that they can refer to MST.		Yes, needed	Yes
Community Service	Yes	Juvenile Community Corrections	Yes		
Informal Probation Supervision	Yes	4 month period; actively monitored by JPO. Don't always meet demand due to higher case loads and staff vacancies -- formal probation takes precedence. MST can work with youth on informal probation.	No		
House Arrest	Yes	For high-risk, high-need adjudicated and on formal probation; also use GPS bracelets for those who don't comply with verbal house arrest; MST can work with this population. Alternative to detention.	Yes		
Electronic Monitoring	Yes	GPS bracelets; monitored in state of Virginia	Yes		
Other	No	NA and AA youth groups!		Yes, needed	

Intermediate Sanctions Needs Assessment					
Program	Available? (Yes/No)	Description	If Available:  Does program meet demand? (Yes/No)	If <u>Not</u> Available:  Is program needed/ planned? (Yes/No)	Select program to fill identified gap? (Yes/No)
Day/Evening Custody/Treatment	No	Reporting center -- goes hand in hand with assessment (RAC) -- ideal for those without structured supervision. Focus on more positive (e.g. mentoring, education, rock wall & lower ropes); also gives family a reprieve.		Yes, needed	
School Based Probation	No			No	
Probation Supervision	Yes	Office is fully staffed. Probation staff members are career employees with significant experience/ expertise. Advanced training to deal with Native American population, sexual offenders and gender specific; more gender specific training is needed.	Yes		
Probation and Electronic Monitoring	Yes	GPS bracelets; monitored in state of Virginia	Yes		
Intensive Probation Supervision	Yes	Based on risk; seen 3 times/week; JPO supervision plus PPOI supervision	Yes		
Alternative Schools	Yes	Extended Learning Centers at high school and middle school; vocational service learning in Magdalena	No		No
Probation Violation Sanction (stay in detention/secure unit)	No	Don't use detention as a sanction -- other graduated interventions utilized meet demand.	Yes		
Outpatient Mental Health Treatment	Yes	Socorro Mental Health for outpatient services; Socorro Mental Health for school based therapeutic services. Tierra Luna in Magdalena and Alamo. Except for MST, providers are booked and overworked -- able to see clients once every couple of weeks; need to be seen more frequently (especially for more serious offenders and those with substance abuse).	No		Yes

Secure Corrections Needs Assessment (Delinquent youth)					
Program	Available? (Yes/No)	Description	If Available:  Does program meet demand? (Yes/No)	If <u>Not</u> Available:  Is program needed/ planned? (Yes/No)	Select program to fill identified gap? (Yes/No)
Group Home / Residential Treatment Facility	Yes, refer out of County	Can refer; nothing available locally. Optum Health/ behavioral health purchasing collaborative has been an obstacle to referrals.	No		
Boot Camp / Experiential Wilderness	No			No	
Inpatient Drug & Alcohol Treatment	No	Can refer; nothing locally		No	
Inpatient Mental Health Treatment	No	Can refer; nothing locally		No	
Acute Diagnostic Psychiatric Assessment	Yes	Available through Socorro General Hospital with Socorro Mental Health providing 24 hr on-call consultations.	Yes		

Aftercare Needs Assessment (Delinquent youth)

Program	Available? (Yes/No)	Description	If Available:  Does program meet demand? (Yes/No)	If Not Available:  Is program needed/ planned? (Yes/No)	Select program to fill identified gap? (Yes/No)
Supervised Release Planning	Yes	JPO is involved in process as soon as juvenile enters facility. JPO involved with treatment team meetings (MDT). Hindrance is that parents are unable to visit with client (child) due to financial and transportation issues.	Yes		
Treatment Services	Yes	limited outpatient services only; most local providers overloaded; MST	No		No
Halfway House	No			No	
Supervision Services	No			No	



**6. Summary and Interpretation:** Borrowing from the SCJJB's Vision Statement, "The vision of the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board is to positively impact and enhance the lives of our youth to prepare for productive adulthood." While the community strives to maintain its wealth in rural assets, the issues that impact our at-risk youth are noted.

**a. Major Issues / Problems:**

- Substance Abuse: Adult and youth substance use is evident from the data supports and from service providers working with at-risk and delinquent youth. From 2009 YRRS data Socorro County rates 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in NM for youth smoking prevalence and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest for smokeless tobacco prevalence; 24.4% self-reported misuse of pain killers (significantly greater than 14.3% for NM); results were notably higher than NM for youth reporting current drinking and binge drinking, and higher than NM for current marijuana use and easy access to marijuana. Youth substance abuse prevention efforts now are important in order to decrease the long-term adult substance abuse levels.
- Domestic and Community Violence: Key stakeholders identify violence as a prevalent problem in Socorro County. 2009 YRRS data around behaviors associated with violence indicate higher than average reports of youth carrying weapons and being in physical fights, and Socorro County had the 18<sup>th</sup> highest domestic violence rate per 1000 population in 2010.
- Teen Pregnancy: Socorro County rated 9<sup>th</sup> highest in the State for teen births to girls ages 15-17 for the period 2007-2009. From 2009 YRRS data Socorro County youth reported higher than average for all of the measures related to sexual activity.
- Abuse and Neglect: Concerns of truancy and absenteeism were frequently identified by key stakeholders and relate to educational neglect. In calendar year 2010 Socorro County rated 9<sup>th</sup> highest in NM for substantiated child sexual abuse, 17<sup>th</sup> highest for substantiated physical abuse, and had the 18<sup>th</sup> highest substantiated child victim rate. Abuse and neglect are known precursors to juvenile delinquency.
- Communication and Coordination: It is evident from negative perceptions expressed in key person interviews across the board that there is not enough collaboration and effective communication among stakeholders. This is consistent with the 2009 JDAI site assessment findings that the community is not working cooperatively and the juvenile justice agencies continue to operate in relative isolation from other child serving organizations that are community based and controlled.
- Youth Vision and Experience: Another major issue expressed by the majority of stakeholders is that many young people are lacking a vision of their future or of possibilities for life outside the bounds of their current daily routines.
- Parenting: Parental involvement, parental accountability and parenting skills were also identified as major issues by most stakeholders interviewed.
- Capacity Building: Anecdotal evidence and the inventory of services and supports reveal the need to build capacity in several areas to help sustain community-based efforts for primary and secondary prevention of juvenile delinquency:

- ▶ resources for truancy intervention;
- ▶ opportunities for meaningful and engaged activity where youth work with caring adults around real issues that affect the common good;
- ▶ job skills training and youth employment;
- ▶ Teen Court; Diversion Classes;
- ▶ Restorative Circles for victim awareness and victim-offender mediation for adjudicated youth;
- ▶ AA and NA support groups, anger management and life/social skills training for youth;
- ▶ outpatient mental health;
- ▶ Reporting Center for adjudicated youth.

**b. Priorities:** The SCJJB strives to work strategically and leverage resources to address the roots of our community problems. Identified issues were examined in light of the following criteria: 1) Urgency – the issue has either gotten worse or continues to be worse than state or national rates; 2) Impact – the issue has serious and multiple impacts on people in the community; 3) Feasibility – the community is ready and willing to address the problem through local action; 4) Current Action or Investment – People have been engaged in addressing the issue and activities are under way that should be continued. Members of the SCJJB are actively involved in addressing many of the major issues identified and will continue to support these community-based efforts. Based on assessment outcomes, data supports, compatibility with existing programs, and community readiness and willingness to address these issues, the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board identified the following juvenile justice priorities in April 2012.

- ▶ **First Priority:** Substance Abuse is identified as the over-arching issue impacting youth and families and contributes to many of the other community problems identified in relation to juvenile delinquency;
- ▶ **Second Priority:** Communication and Coordination are crucial to building capacity and sustaining a broad community-based approach to reduce abuse, neglect and juvenile delinquency

The selected priorities will be the focus of the Board’s efforts moving forward. Please see the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board 2012 Strategic Plan to learn about the Board’s objectives and strategies to address these priorities. The plan is intended to be a living document and will be reviewed and revised

to reflect current conditions in the community that impact at-risk youth and juvenile delinquency prevention.

This community assessment was approved by the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board on April 12, 2012 and updated June 2012.

*Thank you for your interest in the success of our youth.*

If you would like additional information about the Socorro County Juvenile Justice Board or this community assessment, please contact the Juvenile Justice Coordinator located in Socorro, NM.

Kirstin Keller, Juvenile Justice Coordinator

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Email: [kirstin.keller@hotmail.com](mailto:kirstin.keller@hotmail.com)