Violence in Bernalillo County

PREVALENCE AND PRIMARY PREVENTION

DEE ROSS-REED, MA
What do we mean by “violence”? What do we mean by “prevention”?

- Violence - child maltreatment, homicide, bullying, sexual violence, intimate partner violence, suicide, elder abuse (data gathered 5/16)
- Primary prevention – prevention of injury before it occurs
- Prevention recommendations are from CDC technical packages for violence prevention – best available data on prevention at the population level
- Focus is on primary prevention from a public health perspective - does not include punitive strategies
Child Maltreatment
Child Maltreatment encompasses child abuse and neglect.

- **Child abuse**
  - Physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of a person under 18 years of age
  - Perpetrated by an adult in a caretaking or custodial role of the child
- **Neglect**
  - The withholding of basic physical and emotional necessities that a child needs to thrive
    - Food, housing, clothing, education, health care
The rate of child maltreatment in New Mexico has been increasing since 2004.

2016 - the rate of substantiated allegations of child abuse was 17.4 per 1,000 children.
2017 - the rate of substantiated allegations of child abuse was approximately 25 per 1,000 children.
The rate of child maltreatment in Bernalillo County is higher than the rate in NM.

- 3,482 substantiated allegations of child abuse in Bernalillo County during FY 2014-2016
- Bernalillo County rate was 22.6 per 1,000 children
- NM rate was 19.1 per 1,000 children
- 20 deaths related to child maltreatment in Bernalillo County between the years 2009-2015

The rate of child maltreatment varies by census tract.

Child Maltreatment by Census Tract, 2007-2011

- Census tracts that are darker in color had more substantiated cases of child maltreatment
- Highest - census tract bound by Lomas, Zuni, Pennsylvania, and Wyoming (26.67 per 1,000 children)
- Second highest - census tract bound by Lomas, Coal, 8th, and Broadway (21.32 per 1,000 children)

Preventing child maltreatment starts with increasing protective factors.

**Protective Factors against Perpetration and Victimization of Child Maltreatment**

- Supportive family environments
- Supportive social networks
- Parental employment
- Adequate housing
- Access to health care and social services
Strategies to Prevent Child Maltreatment

**Strengthen Economic Supports for Families**

- Strengthen household financial security
  - Child support payments
  - Tax credits for families with children
  - Subsidized child care
  - State options for managing federal nutrition assistance programs
- Assisted housing mobility
- Family-friendly work policies
  - Livable wages
  - Paid leave
  - Flexible and consistent schedules
Strategies to Prevent Child Maltreatment

*Change Social Norms to Support Parents and Positive Parenting*
- Public engagement and education campaigns
- Legislative approaches to reduce corporal punishment

*Provide Quality Care and Education Early in Life*
- Preschool enrichment with family engagement
- Improving quality of childcare through licensing and accreditation
Strategies to Prevent Child Maltreatment

*Enhance Parenting Skills to Promote Healthy Child Development*
- Early childhood home visitation programs
- Parenting skill and family relationship approaches

*Intervene to Lessen Harms and Prevent Future Risk*
- Enhanced Primary Care
- Behavioral parent training programs
- Treatment for children and families to lessen the harms of abuse and neglect exposure
- Treatment for children and families to prevent problem behavior and later involvement in violence
Homicide
From 2013-2016, the homicide death rate in NM increased by 42%.
Homicide disproportionately impacts young adults.

- Homicide is the third leading cause of death among persons aged 10 to 24 years in the United States.
- In New Mexico in 2015, homicide was the third leading cause of death among adolescents and young adults 15-29 years.
- In 2014, 86% of youth homicide victims were killed with a firearm.
The rate of homicide in Bernalillo County is increasing.

- In 2016, 70 people died by homicide, up from 58 people in 2015.
- Bernalillo County rate (2012-2016): 7.9 homicides per 100,000 residents
- New Mexico rate (2012-2016): 7.5 homicides per 100,000 residents
- In 2015, 59.3% of homicides were by firearm
- “For the third year in a row, (Albuquerque) has seen a significant increase in the number of killings, ending 2017 with a preliminary total of 75 – the highest number of homicides in recent history. That’s an increase of 150 percent since 2014, when there were 30.”
  –ABQ Journal
Homicide disproportionately impacts people who are male, American Indian, and Black/African American.

The rate of homicide varies by neighborhood.

Number of Homicides in Bernalillo County by NM Small Area, 2010-2014

- The small area with the highest number of homicides during 2010-2014 was Central Penn (21 homicides), followed by Central Tabo (19 homicides).
- Montano/Coors, Alameda/Coors, and KAFB saw no deaths by homicide during 2010-2014.
- Results include deaths of New Mexico residents only.

Non-Fatal Youth Violence
The rate of physical fighting in NM is higher than the US rate.

• Differences in physical fighting were seen by gender, race/ethnicity, and sexual orientation.
  • Male students (31.1%) reported higher rates of physical fighting than female students (20.5%) in New Mexico.
  • Black students were more likely to have gotten into a physical fight than American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic, or White students.
  • Students who were unsure of their sexual identity, bisexual students, and gay and lesbian students were more likely to have gotten into a physical fight than straight students.

Source: New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (NM YRRS), New Mexico Departments of Health and Public Education and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
NM students who feel threatened may carry weapons or skip school.

Source: New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (NM YRRS), New Mexico Departments of Health and Public Education and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
Bullying on school property is lower in Bernalillo County than in NM or the US overall.

Source: New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (NM YRRS), New Mexico Departments of Health and Public Education and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
Strategies to prevent homicide and non-fatal youth violence

- **Promote Family Environments that Support Healthy Development**
  - Early childhood home visitation programs
  - Parenting skill and family relationship programs

- **Provide Quality Education Early in Life**
  - Preschool enrichment with family engagement
  - Strengthen youth’s social-emotional skills

- **Connect Youth to Caring Adults and Activities**
  - Mentoring programs
  - After-school programs
Strategies to prevent homicide and non-fatal youth violence

Create Protective Community Environments

- Modify the physical and social environment
- Reduce exposure to community-level risks
- Street outreach and community norm change

Intervene to Lessen Harms and Prevent Future Risk

- Treatment to lessen the harms of violence exposures
- Treatment to prevent problem behavior and further involvement in violence
- Hospital-community partnerships
Sexual Violence
Sexual violence is highly prevalent in New Mexico and in the United States.

• More than 1 in 5 of women (20.4%) in New Mexico have experienced a completed or attempted rape during their lifetime.

• The rate of sexual violence among women in NM is comparable to the rate of sexual violence in the US (19.1%).

• 16% of men in New Mexico have experienced some form of unwanted sexual contact in their lifetime, compared to 17% in the United States.

• In Bernalillo County in 2015, there were 559 incidents of criminal sexual penetration reported to law enforcement. 574 survivors were seen by a service provider such as a rape crisis center or mental health counselor.
The rate of forced sex among youth in New Mexico is slowly declining.

In 2015, 10.6% of girls and 4.1% of boys in New Mexico had been physically forced to have sex at some point during their lifetime. This is similar to the US rate (10.3%, 3.1%).

Sexual violence disproportionately impacts youth who are homeless, LGB, and/or living with disabilities.

- High school students who are experiencing homelessness, who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB), and who are living with a physical disability are more than twice as likely to have been forced to have sex than the general NM youth population.

Source: New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (NM YRRS), New Mexico Departments of Health and Public Education and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
The rate of forced sex in Bernalillo County appears to fluctuate from year to year.

- In Bernalillo County in 2015, 6.6% of high school students reported a history of forced sex, compared to 7.3% of students in New Mexico.

Source: New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (NM YRRS), New Mexico Departments of Health and Public Education and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
Primary prevention of sexual violence focuses on preventing perpetration, not victimization

- **Promote Social Norms that Protect Against Violence**
  - Bystander approaches
  - Mobilize men and boys as allies
- **Teach Skills to Prevent Sexual Violence**
  - Social-emotional learning approaches
  - Healthy, safe dating and intimate relationship skills to adolescents
  - Healthy sexuality
  - Empowerment-based training for women to reduce risk for victimization
Strategies to Prevent Sexual Violence

Provide Opportunities to Empower and Support Girls and Women

• Strengthen economic supports for women and families
• Strengthen leadership and opportunities for adolescent girls

Create Protective Environments

• Improve Safety and Monitoring in Schools
• Consistently apply workplace policies
• Address community-level risks through environmental approaches
Prevention of Sexual Violence

Support Victims/Survivors to Lessen Harms
• Victim-Centered Services
• Treatment for Victims of Sexual Violence
• Treatment for At-Risk Children and Families to Prevent Sex Offending

Collaboration
• Rape crisis centers, K-12 schools, universities, law enforcement
Sexual Violence Prevention Strategies Specific to New Mexico

- **Strategic Plan - Oppression is the root cause of sexual violence.**
  - Social norms pertaining to power, privilege, gender roles, gender expression, secrecy, privacy, and other social determinants of health contribute to the high rates of sexual violence in New Mexico.

- **Change norms pertaining to the acceptability of violence in NM**
  - expand collaborations, conducting readiness assessments, conducting prevention programming, developing targeted messages

- **Create safer environments**
  - develop and implement organizational policies that decrease risk factors for SV perpetration and increase protective factors against victimization
  - increase the use of the public health approach in statewide SV prevention efforts

Intimate Partner Violence
1 in 3 women in NM have been physically harmed by an intimate partner.

• In New Mexico, nearly one-third (31.1%) of women, or approximately 244,000 women, have experienced physical violence by a current or former intimate partner, compared to 32.4% of women in the United States.

• 8.6% of New Mexico high school students were physically harmed by a dating partner in the 12 months preceding the 2015 YRRS. This is lower than the percentage of students in the United States who experienced physical dating violence in 2015 (9.6%).

• Between the years 2009-2015, there were at least 39 IPV-related homicides in Bernalillo County.
Bernalillo County sees high rates of domestic violence reported to law enforcement.

- In 2014, there were 7,981 cases of domestic violence reported to law enforcement in Bernalillo County.
- Bernalillo County ranked fourth of all NM counties in rate of domestic violence incidents reported to law enforcement, with a rate of 13.5 per 1,000 residents.
- The rate of domestic violence incidents reported to law enforcement in NM is 9.2 per 1,000 residents.

Intimate partner violence impacts pregnant women, youth and children in Bernalillo County.

- During the period 2009-2015, 61 women, or 3.4% of pregnant women, in Bernalillo County reported physical abuse before pregnancy, and 52 women, or 4.1% of women reported abuse during pregnancy.
- Among Bernalillo County high school students in 2015, 7.8% reported having experienced physical dating violence in the 12 months preceding the survey. This is lower than the percent of high school students reporting physical dating violence in New Mexico (8.6%).
- Domestic violence service providers reported serving 841 children victim-witnesses in Bernalillo County in 2014.
Strategies to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence

**Teach Safe and Healthy Relationship Skills**

- Social-emotional learning programs for youth
- Healthy relationship programs for couples

**Engage Influential Adults and Peers**

- Engage men and boys in IPV prevention
- Encourage bystander intervention
- Improve parental awareness and knowledge about teen dating violence
Strategies to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence

*Disrupt the developmental risks and pathways that lead to IPV*
  - Early childhood home visitation programs
  - Preschool enrichment with family engagement programs
  - Parenting skill and family relationship programs
  - Treatment for at-risk children, youth and families

*Create protective environments*
  - Improve school climate and safety
  - Improve organizational policies and workplace climate
  - Modify the physical and social environments of neighborhoods (e.g., alcohol outlet density)
Strategies to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence

*Strengthen economic supports for families*
- Strengthening household financial security
- Strengthening work-family supports

*Support survivors to increase safety and lessen harms*
- Victim-centered services
- Housing programs
- First responder and civil legal protections
Suicide
The rate of suicide in NM is nearly double the rate of suicide in the US.

The rate of suicide in NM in 2015 was 23.5 deaths per 100,000 compared to 13.3 per 100,000 in the US.

White males have the highest rate of death by suicide in New Mexico.

- During the period 2012-2016, White residents of New Mexico had the highest rate of death by suicide of all racial and ethnic groups (27.4 per 100,000), followed by American Indian/Alaska native residents (21.9 per 100,000).
- Males were more than three times as likely to die from suicide as females.

Suicide impacts residents county-wide.

- The small areas with the highest number of deaths by suicide were Central/Tabo (36) and Montgomery/Louisiana (36).
- The small area with the lowest number of deaths by suicide was Chavez/118th street (9).
- The rate of suicide in Bernalillo County during the period 2012-2016 was 18.9 per 100,000 residents, similar to the state rate of 19.8 per 100,000.

Strategies to Prevent Suicide

The evidence base for suicide prevention is not as robust as for other forms of violence.

**Strengthen Economic Supports**
- Strengthen household financial security
- Implement housing stabilization policies

**Strengthen Access and Delivery of Suicide Care**
- Coverage of mental health conditions in health insurance policies
- Reduce provider shortages in underserved areas
- Safer suicide care through systems change
Strategies to Prevent Suicide

*Create Protective Environments*
- Reduce access to lethal means among persons at risk of suicide
- Implement organizational policies and culture that reduce stigma
- Implement community-based policies to reduce excessive alcohol use

*Promote Connectedness*
- Peer norm programs
- Community engagement activities
Preventing Suicide

*Teach Coping and Problem-Solving Skills*

- Social-emotional learning programs
- Parenting skill and family relationship programs

*Identify and Support People at Risk*

- Homeless or are living in unstable housing
- Veterans and active duty military personnel
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer
- American Indian
- Institutionalized
- Previous victims of violence, including suicide, or were close to someone who recently died by suicide
Preventing Suicide

Identify and Support People at Risk (cont’d)
- Gatekeeper training
- Crisis intervention
- Treatment for people at risk of suicide
- Treatment to prevent re-attempts

Lessen Harms and Prevent Future Risk
- Postvention
- Safe reporting and messaging about suicide
Elder Abuse
1 in 10 elders experiences emotional, physical, or sexual abuse or potential neglect in their lifetime.

- Elders frequently do not report abuse because they are dependent on caregivers or family members who are perpetrating the abuse.
- Current data for elder abuse in Bernalillo County do not appear to be readily available at this time.
- Increasing data collection around elder abuse is an area that needs attention.
Strategies for Prevention of Elder Abuse

The evidence base around prevention of elder abuse is not as robust as for other forms of violence.

Strategies may include:

• Listening to older adults and their caregivers to understand their needs
• Educating oneself about the signs of elder abuse, and mechanisms for reporting
• Checking in often on older adults experiencing social isolation
• Checking in on caregivers to identify emotional, physical, or financial strain, and help them identify sources of support
• Seeking outside support for health care or financial matters as appropriate
• Looking for substance abuse in older adults or caregivers, and provide resources as appropriate
“Gang violence is connected to bullying is connected to school violence is connected to intimate partner violence is connected to child abuse is connected to elder abuse. It’s all connected.”
Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD, Adjunct Professor, Harvard School of Public Health

“There are experiences, particularly early in childhood, that make it extremely predictable that individuals are at substantially higher risk for involvement with violence, be it interpersonal, youth violence, intimate partner violence, dating violence, or child abuse.”
Howard Spivak, MD, Director, Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Connecting the Dots

Shared risk factors for 6+ forms of violence

- Cultural norms that support aggression toward others
- Harmful norms around masculinity and femininity
- Diminished economic opportunities/high unemployment rates
- Poor neighborhood support and cohesion
- Social isolation/Lack of social support
- Poor parent-child relationships
- Family conflict
- Low educational achievement
- Lack of non-violent social problem-solving skills*
- Poor behavioral control/impulsiveness
- History of violent victimization*
- Witnessing violence
- Substance use *
Connecting the Dots

Shared protective factors for 5+ forms of violence

- Coordination of resources and services among community agencies
- Access to mental health and substance abuse services
- Community support/connectedness
- Family support/connectedness
- Connection to a caring adult
- Association with prosocial peers
- Connection/commitment to school
- Skills in solving problems non-violently
A wide variety of organizations in Bernalillo County are working to prevent violence.

- Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women
- Disability Advisory Group
- Early Childhood Accountability Partnership
- Fierce Pride
- Project ECHO (Extension for Community Health Outcomes)
- Enlace Comunitario
- New Mexico Asian Family Center
- New Mexico Crisis Line
- New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico
- Rape Crisis Center of Central New Mexico
- Resolve (Formerly IMPACT)
- University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability
- Youth Development, Inc. (YDI) Gang Violence Intervention
A wide variety of organizations in Bernalillo County are working to prevent violence.

- APD Forward
- Atrisco Heritage High School
- CLN Kids
- International District Healthy Communities Coalition
- La Placita Institute
- Legal FACs
- LGBTQ Resource Center at UNM
- South Valley Male Involvement Project
- New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs
- New Mexico Office of the District Attorney
- Planned Parenthood
- PB&J
- Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (a working group through Juvenile Detention)
- South Valley Early Childhood Group
- Strong Families New Mexico
- TEWA Women United
- UNMH Soothing a Crying Baby Program
- Women’s Resource Center UNM
- YDI Early Head Start
- Young Women United
Community Dialogue
Violence Prevention in Bernalillo County