

Mental Health & Juvenile Justice Services in New Mexico

New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department | May 2025



During state fiscal year (SFY) 2024, the New Mexico Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) budgeted over \$518k for 10 mental health programs for New Mexico youth at risk of Juvenile Justice System (JJS) involvement, first-time offenders, and non-violent offenders.

Youth with mental health disorders are overrepresented in JJS (70% vs. 20%).
Here's why:

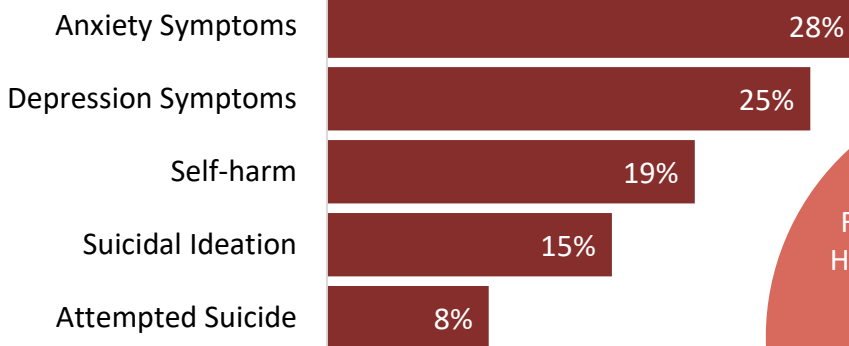
Childhood Trauma

Impaired self-regulation leads to risk-taking behaviors: Delinquent offenses, substance use, and self-harm

Black and Hispanic Youth

These youth are less likely to be appropriately diagnosed or treated for mental health disorders and trauma, and behaviors are more likely to be seen as delinquent

New Mexico High School Students, 2023



2023 New Mexico High School Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey

JJAC programs for youth mental health served

1,303

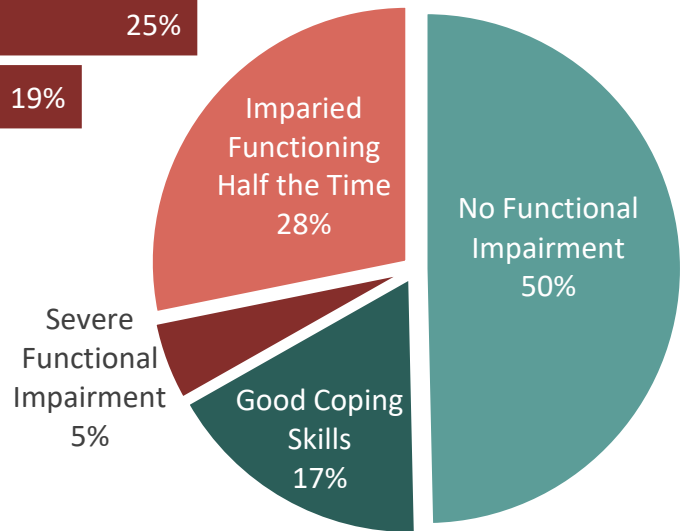
unique youth during SFY 2024.

CYFD JJS Programs Unit

Most common conditions among JJS clients:

ADHD, Anxiety, Depression

Council of State Governments



Emotional Stability among Youth Starting Formal Probation, NM SFY 2024

CYFD JJS

What can JJS and partners do to better serve youth with mental health disorders?

- ☐ Mental health and trauma screening at all points of contact in JJS
- ☐ Refer youth to JJAC programs and other interventions based on screening
- ☐ Trauma training for staff
- ☐ More mental health clinicians in schools to screen and refer
- ☐ Continuity of care through inter-agency information sharing

Resources



CYFD Juvenile Justice Programs Unit | Website

<https://www.cyfd.nm.gov/juvenile-justice-services/youth-services-and-delinquency-prevention/juvenile-community-corrections/>

How to Use an Integrated Approach to Address the Mental Health Needs of Youth in the Justice System | Report

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/How-to-Use-an-Integrated-Approach-to-Address-the-Mental-Health-Needs-of-Youth-in-the-Justice-System.pdf>

Mental Health and Juvenile Justice: A Review of Prevalence, Promising Practices, and Areas for Improvement | Report

<https://neglected-delinquent.ed.gov/sites/default/files/NDTAC-MentalHealth-JJ-Brief-508.pdf>