

New Mexico Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative

Collaboration for Recovery, Resiliency and Empowerment



Aging and Long-Term Services Department

Administrative Office of the Courts

Children, Youth and Families Department

New Mexico Corrections Department

Department of Finance and Administration

Department of Health

Department of Workforce Solutions

Department of Transportation

Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Governor's Commission on Disability

Governor's Health Policy Advisor

Health Policy Commission

Human Services Department

Indian Affairs Department

Mortgage Finance Authority

Public Education Department

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New Mexico Ranks Second Lowest in the Nation for Underage Self-Purchase of Alcohol

National Survey Highlights Need for Adult Education in Reducing Access of Alcohol for Youths

Santa Fe, New Mexico – The New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative has received the results of a survey conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), which ranks New Mexico second lowest in the nation for underage self-purchase of alcohol.

The combined 2006 to 2008 data found the percentages of past month drinkers aged 12 to 20 who bought their own alcohol were among the lowest in Alaska (3.1 percent) and New Mexico (3.7 percent).

“This is far below the national average of 8.6 percent, which we are pleased with,” said Linda Roebuck Homer, Collaborative CEO. “However we have more work to do in educating adults about the dangers of purchasing or providing alcohol to our underage citizens.”

The same report found that more than a quarter of New Mexico’s under age youth had drank alcohol in the month prior to the survey, which is at the national average. The two survey results show the need to reduce the availability of alcohol to young people.

“This survey can help New Mexico raise awareness about underage drinking and develop effective approaches to prevent underage drinking,” said Homer.

SAMHSA has launched a new series of national public service advertisements to encourage parents to talk to their children about drinking alcohol at an early age. The PSA campaign includes [resources](#) for parents that illustrate the short and long-term consequences of underage drinking and for tips on talking with their kids about alcohol. The campaign and study are being released in conjunction with Alcohol Awareness Month (April) and as part of the Surgeon General’s “Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking.”

“Prevention is the number one priority of SAMHSA, and reducing underage drinking is a key part of that effort” said SAMHSA Administrator Pamela S. Hyde, J.D. “The national educational campaign SAMHSA is undertaking with the Ad Council aims at bringing to bear the most effective weapon against underage drinking – conversations between parents and their children.”

The report can be found at <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k10/180/SR180UADhtml.pdf>

About the Collaborative

The Collaborative was created during the 2004 Legislature to allow most state agencies and resources involved in behavioral health treatment and recovery to work as one in an effort to improve mental health and substance abuse services in New Mexico. This cabinet-level group represents 15 agencies and Governor Bill Richardson’s office.

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