



HEALTHY KIDS

STRATEGY BRIEF 2022 - 2025

This initiative aims to improve a range of health and life outcomes by engaging disconnected youth and young adults.

Disconnected Youth (DY) refers to kids ages 5-17 years old who do not have a safe environment, a positive activity, and a trusted adult outside of school time. DY are at increased risk for drug use and unsafe sexual activity. DY also experience a decrease in achievement test scores, grades, and school attendance.

Disconnected Young Adults (DYAs) refers to people between 16-24 years old who are not in school and not working. DYAs are three times more likely to suffer from depression and twenty times more likely to live in correctional and psychiatric facilities. They are also one-sixth as likely to

obtain a high school or college degree, and are at increased risk for diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, and stroke. The annual cost associated with DYAs in the El Paso area is approximately \$84 million.

Various opportunities exist to address disconnection. Job readiness programs, like apprenticeships, Job Corps, internships, and Youth Build provide training and education. All twelve school districts in Region-19 offer career technology education. Additionally, there are 27 schools within Region-19 and 21 schools in southern New Mexico that offer dual-credit classes, advance placement, and early college education options. The education system in Mexico is different. In Cd Juárez, MX, for example, private organizations offer job training as a form of recruitment.

The Paso del Norte Health Foundation's Board of Directors approved the following strategies to address **disconnected kids and young adults** for 2022-2025.

APPROACHES

STRATEGIES

OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS

- Expand Out-of-School Time programming in safe places with positive activities for DY
- Connect DY with caring adults
- Administer the Quality Youth Program Self-Assessments

DYA STRATEGY EXPLORATION

- Monitor regional data associated with DYAs
- Build a regional coalition of DYAs thought leaders
- Learn from national partners and implement lessons regionally
- Pilot programs to address DYAs

BOOST NETWORK

- Increase BOOST Network membership
- Offer capacity building training and resources to members
- Promote and market BOOST members' programs

ESTIMATED YOUNG ADULT DISCONNECTION RATES

NEW MEXICO has the highest rate	19.6%
DOÑA ANA COUNTY	14.2% (5,400)
LUNA COUNTY	32.1% (900)
OTERO COUNTY	16% (1,400)
TEXAS	14% (510,900)
EL PASO COUNTY	13.1% (16,000)
MEXICO	25% (7 million)
JUÁREZ, MX	23.3% (120,700)

