

What is The Council for Boys and Young Men?

The Council is a strength-based group approach to promote healthy masculinity development for boys and young men from ages 9-18. The Council focuses on boys' natural strengths and broadens their understanding about being male in today's world. It challenges myths about how to be a "real boy" or "real man".

The Council engages boys in activities, dialogue, and self-expression to question stereotypical concepts. By promoting valuable relationships with peers and adult facilitators, The Council increases boys' emotional, social, and cultural literacy. In a safe and action-oriented context, boys can identify healthy ideas about what it means to be male. They are invited to define the "male box" that shapes and constricts their growth.

As a trained facilitator I can help your organization by providing and implementing The Council for Boys and Young Men Curriculum. I have collaborated with Alternative Education Schools, Probation and Law Enforcement agencies throughout Shasta County (CA). I have focused on at-risk youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system and would like to expand my services to include middle schools and high schools in the local area or wherever there is a need.

I believe the best steps to take in working with boys and young men, is to meet them where they are. Building trust is a key component in getting them to open up. Listening to what they have to say is a basic requirement to determine their needs. Many times in their life they may not have had the opportunity to say what's on their mind without being judged or discounted.

Prevention is the greatest deterrent to future at-risk behavior. Helping boys and young men to identify the causes of risky behavior will help them to make better, more intelligent decisions and help them to understand their choices.

As a trained facilitator I can help your youth learn how to make healthy choices that deliver positive results. My experience has given me the wisdom to know how to connect with boys and young men. I have a vested interest in helping the youth of our community. I choose to contribute to the utmost of my ability.

“The more important your community is to you, the more important you are to your community.”

Rick Crowley- Fatherhood Program Consultant

As a trained facilitator I recognize the need for boys to find an acceptable way for them to express themselves. All boys are not the same and should be considered unique in what they have to offer. Through the tools offered in the curriculum, boys will be given a chance to develop friendships individually and as a group.

They will be given an opportunity to determine and compare commonalities from their life experiences to develop empathy and understanding for other boys in the group. The fact that many of them come from varied cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds gives them an opportunity to learn from their peers mistakes and successes.

Understanding that boys need to be active and physical they will participate in fun, challenging games and activities. Individual and team effort will be rewarded with encouragement and praise. Participation will be specific to the needs of the group with respect given to individual ability.

Meetings can be held at your facility on a weekly basis for the number of weeks you feel necessary to serve your boys and young men's needs.

We can discuss and assess your needs to determine the next best steps. I am willing and flexible to meet you where you are. Let's work together to develop a plan to help change the lives of our boys and young men for the better.

For The Council for Boys and Young Men facilitator services,

Please call: 530-209-5661 or 530-406-9678.

Or email me at rickcrowley@greathelpsource.com



The following is an excerpt of a

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Initial Findings Brief

This brief uses research-based information to highlight the positive impact that caring adults in families, schools, and communities can have on the wellbeing of boys and young men and the concrete steps they can take to help the boys and young men in their lives.

A Look at Boys in America

Many adolescent boys are doing well. They graduate from high school, make healthy choices, and reach adulthood prepared for the world of work and the responsibilities of family. For young men like these, opportunities have never been greater. For some boys, the transition to adulthood is more difficult. Some American boys become victims of crime or commit crimes themselves.

Some abuse substances at a young age or suffer from mental health problems such as depression. Some do poorly in school or drop out. And often, there are disparities among boys based on race and ethnicity, family structure, socioeconomic status, and the places where they live.

The challenges boys face have not gone unnoticed by scholars, popular media, and the public. Recent headlines have asserted that there is a “problem with boys,” “a boys’ crisis,” and “a new gender gap” between boys and girls. But not everyone agrees.

Some say that the toughest problems are faced only by subgroups of boys, such as African American and Hispanic boys; boys whose parents neglect them, abuse drugs or alcohol, are unemployed, or suffer from mental health problems; and boys with mental health problems such as conduct disorder, bipolar disorder, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

In Brief: Facts about How Boys Are Doing

There's both good news and bad news about how boys in America are faring. Boys are doing better than they did a decade or more ago across a variety of indicators, including juvenile justice involvement, dropout rates, and substance use.

- Today, boys commit fewer property crimes, such as burglary, car theft, and arson, than they did in the late 1980s.
- Boys' smoking rates are lower today than in the mid- to late 1990s. Their drinking rates have also declined.
- Since 1995, boys' dropout rates have fallen.
- Between 1994 and 2004, fewer boys between the ages of 10 and 18 have died each year. (Boys are most often killed in accidents, such as car crashes, followed by homicide and suicide.)
- Boys are using their time constructively: one study found that nearly half of high school senior boys play a sport, more than a quarter take part in community affairs or volunteer at least once or twice per month, more than a quarter are part of a school club or activity, and about one-fifth play music or do other performing arts.
- A greater percentage of high school senior boys volunteered their time in 2006 than in the early 1990s.

However, boys are still facing challenges in many areas:

- In 2004, almost three-quarters of young people prosecuted in juvenile courts were boys. Their most common law-violating behaviors were vandalism, theft, and assault.
- From 1997 to 2003, around 85 percent of all juveniles in residential placement were boys.
- More than 1 out of every 8 tenth grade boys surveyed in 2006 had smoked at least one cigarette in the previous month.
- About 1 in every 6 eighth grade boys surveyed in 2006 had drunk alcohol in the previous month.
- Nearly 40 percent of twelfth grade boys surveyed in 2006 had used illegal drugs in the past year.
- While adolescent boys report depression less frequently than girls, depressed boys are more resistant to treatment and more likely to commit suicide.
- While overall dropout rates have declined, in 2004, boys still represented over half (56 percent) of school drop-outs ages 16 to 24.
- Almost twice as many boys as girls ages 3 to 17 have been diagnosed with ADHD.
- The employment rate for high school boys between the ages of 16 and 18 dropped from 33 percent in the 1995-1996 school year to 25 percent in the 2003-2004 school year.
- In 2006, 7 percent of boys were out of school and unemployed.
- A boy is more likely to be a victim of a serious violent crime, such as assault, robbery, and homicide, as he gets

older: 15- to 19-year-old boys are much more often victims of those crimes than are 10- to 14-year-old boys.

Research also shows that specific subpopulations of boys are experiencing particular struggles:

- From 1995 through 2005, American Indian/Alaska Native boys ages 10 to 18 consistently had higher rates of suicide and death by motor vehicle crashes than White, African American, and Hispanic boys.
- In 2004, the homicide rate for African American teen boys was 55 per 100,000. That's more than double the homicide rate for Hispanic boys, nearly 4 times the rate for American Indian boys, and nearly 20 times the rate for non-Hispanic White boys.
- Although racial disparity in the juvenile justice system is declining, the violent crime arrest rate for African American juveniles was still four times that of White juveniles in 2003.
- African American and Hispanic adolescents have improved their performance on standardized tests over the last 20 years; however, their achievement continues to be lower than that of their White peers.
- In 2004, 7 percent of White adolescents ages 16 to 24 were high school dropouts, compared with 12 percent of African American adolescents and 24 percent of Hispanic adolescents.
- Incarceration rates for African American male high school dropouts more than doubled between 1980 and 1999.
- In 2005, 49 percent of Hispanic males, 47 percent of White males, and 30 percent of African American males in high school had at least one drink of alcohol within 30 days of being surveyed.

What Works for Boys?

Boys' problems are not intractable and their strengths are many. Research has shown that, sometimes, simple steps can go a long way toward helping support boys as they confront challenges:

- ✓ Showing them that adults care about them.
- ✓ Talking to them candidly about drugs, tobacco, and alcohol.
- ✓ Encouraging them to help, rather than bully, each other.
- ✓ Providing them with positive, supervised ways to spend their time when they are not in school.

Caring adults in families, schools, and communities can also come together to build comprehensive solutions to boys' challenges—solutions that focus not just on individuals, but on the social networks that surround them.

Researchers don't yet have all the answers. In particular, more research is needed into ways to help boys navigate through poverty, unsafe neighborhoods, and violent crime. Solutions must also be studied that address the challenges specific subpopulations of boys face.

There is no one right answer. Some boys may respond well to simple interventions, while others require years of additional support. What we do know is that, despite challenges, there is great opportunity to prepare all boys in America to develop their capabilities, reach their potential, and transition successfully to adulthood.

End of DHHS Initial Findings Brief Excerpt

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