

BUFFALO COUNTY YOUTH



<https://bcchp.org/assessments/>

Key Purpose

Connecting youth across the county to provide youth with a platform to share their voice, a place within the community where they have a sense of belonging, and an opportunity to share resources, data, and trends with local leadership.

Community Partners

- Arram Family Foundation
- Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN Central)
- Boys Town
- Buffalo County Faith Communities
- Buffalo County FBLA Chapters
- Buffalo County Parents
- Buffalo County Schools
- Central Community College
- CHI Health Good Samaritan and Richard Young Hospital
- City of Kearney
- Civic Nebraska
- COMPASS Nebraska
- Families Care
- Inclusive Communities
- Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce
- Kearney Jubilee Center
- Kearney Police Department
- Kearney Salvation Army
- Kearney YMCA
- Livewell Counseling
- McKenna Rae of Hope Foundation
- Nebraska Department of Education
- Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
- Rooted
- The Friends Program
- The S.A.F.E. Center
- Two Rivers Public Health Department
- Union Pacific
- University of Nebraska Kearney
- University of Nebraska Medical Center Kearney
- The World Theatre
- Younes Hospitality

With more partners, too numerous to list, working collaboratively on this issue.

Community Challenges

Youth are reporting that **mental health and other preventative resources** are **not youth-friendly** or easily accessible.



of youth are 'challenged' or 'vulnerable' in their need to be surrounded by people who love, care for, appreciate, and accept them.¹



of youth report a loss of a sense of community belonging, adult supports, available programming, and caring neighborhoods to thrive.¹



of youth report that on an average school day, not including schoolwork, they are spending 3 or more hours getting screen time.²

Priority Work

Building youth-based, youth-led, and youth-driven efforts where youth are empowered as equal partners in community leadership.

- Build and support the Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board (YAB)
- Advocate for public policy change and include youth in community decision making to enhance thriving youth
- Youth lead trainings to increase access to resources
- Teach youth to take action on issues of importance to them

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Youth Advisory Board Data

6 of 10

Buffalo County high schools are currently represented on Buffalo County's Youth Advisory Board (YAB).³

80%

increase in enrolled YAB members since 2022.

Since 2022, YAB's enrolled male members to female members have increased to

1:2 from 1:7

24

Youth Advisory Board members trained on Narcan use, as well as, QPR suicide prevention training in 2024.⁴

240 resources

on dating violence were distributed in Buffalo County high schools by YAB members in conjunction with The S.A.F.E. Center in 2025.⁴

YAB has met with **every Buffalo County state representative** to advocate for public policy change in connection with Nebraska Children & Families Foundation Youth Legislative Days.

Buffalo County Data

14.9%

of Buffalo County's population are adolescent (10-19 years old) . 8.1% are aged 15-19 and 6.8% are 10-14.⁵

24%

of youth reported they '**never**' or '**rarely**' have felt they were able to talk to an adult in their family or another caring adult about their feelings, **in their life**.²

13%

of youth report they are '**not at all**' involved in a sport, club, or other group.¹

71%

of youth report they '**almost always**' or '**often**' help make their school, neighborhood, or city **a better place**.¹

Connect

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