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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stefanics ORIGINAL DATE 2/3/2020  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_  
SHORT TITLE Latino Youth Suicide Prevention SB 78  
ANALYST Kludt

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Department of Health (DOH)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 78 (SB78) appropriates \$50 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Health (DOH) for suicide prevention programs for Latino youth.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2021 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH noted the department's Office of School and Adolescent Health's (OSAH) Youth Behavioral Health program houses the Youth Suicide Prevention Program. It has been working on adolescent behavioral health to include suicide prevention since 2005, and culturally appropriate interventions and evaluations have been well established through this program. OSAH has one Behavioral Health Consultant and one Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator assigned to specifically address youth suicide prevention statewide.

DOH also reported:

“Between 2014 and 2018 Hispanic (Latino) children and youth between the ages of 10 and 24 had a higher number of suicides (192) than whites (127), American Indians/Alaska Natives (57), Black/African Americans (11), or Asian/Pacific Islanders (6). The suicide rate per 100,000 individuals among Latino youth has however been consistently lower than the rates for other racial/ethnic groups in the state.

Over the past decade, New Mexico has consistently reported a suicide rate across all age groups that is 1.5 times higher than the national rate. While suicide was the 8<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death among New Mexicans in 2018 across all age groups, it was the leading cause of death in those 15-17 years and the second leading cause of death in those 5 to 14 years. The rate of death among those 10 to 14 years of age tripled over the past decade (2009-2018), with most of the increase coming between 2016 and 2018 (New Mexico Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics death data, 2009-2018; New Mexico Indicator -Based Information System. (IBIS). Available at [ibis.health.state.nm.us](http://ibis.health.state.nm.us). Accessed October 2, 2019).

Survey data collected in 2017 among high school youth show that nearly 16.5percent of Hispanic youth have seriously considered suicide in the last year. Black/ African American youth had the highest percentage at 23.2percent, followed by Asian/ Pacific islanders at 22.5percent, Whites at 19.2percent, and American Indians at 17.1percent. Among New Mexico youth from all racial/ethnic groups, 17.8percent have seriously considered suicide in the last year. (Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey, 2017; New Mexico Indicator -Based Information System. (IBIS) is Available at [ibis.health.state.nm.us](http://ibis.health.state.nm.us). Accessed January 15, 2020).

Among high school Hispanic youth, those who are gender non-conforming are 4 times more likely to have attempted suicide in the past 12 months than cis-gendered Hispanic youth. Among Hispanic high school youth, lesbian, gay or bisexual youth are 3.3 times more likely to have attempted suicide in the past 12 months than Hispanic youth who do not identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. (Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey, 2017; Accessed January 15, 2020).

Youth suicide is recognized as a major public health concern, and addressing this issue requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach. Education about ways to recognize and refer individuals at risk for suicide is an important component of prevention. This is particularly so for New Mexico’s youngest residents of all race/ethnicities given shared environments and experiences that have an impact on the health and well-being of the entire generation of the state’s children and youth.”