

New Jersey

Youth Mental Health Matters

What is NJ4S?

The New Jersey Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S), launched in 2023 by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, is a statewide hub-and-spoke network providing comprehensive mental health supports for youth across all 21 counties. Through regional hubs, NJ4S delivers evidence-based prevention programs, brief interventions, clinical services, and training for schools and communities. Since its implementation, NJ4S has reached over 1 million individuals and continues to expand its impact every day.

Why Does NJ4S Need Your Help?

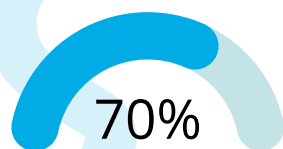
Due to tight state budgeting and a proposed new school-based initiative, NJ4S was eliminated from the FY27 proposed budget in favor of a new program. While we support continued investment in student mental health, removing NJ4S would have immediate and lasting consequences: students will lose access to clinical services overnight, creating a 6–12 month gap in care at a critical time. Additionally, the majority of schools would not qualify for the new initiative, and none would receive the prevention services NJ4S currently provides, putting youth mental health across New Jersey at significant risk.

What You Can Do About It?

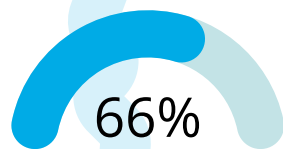
Tell the governor, your state senators, and assemblymembers that NJ4S must be restored in the FY27 state budget. This \$43 million investment will ensure critical mental health services continue without disruption and that all school districts across New Jersey maintain access to the support students need.

What Is The Impact?

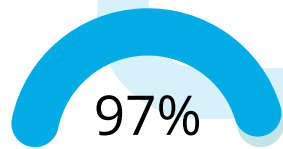
Since the start of NJ4S, there has been a 34.5% reduction in suicidal ideation and a 40% reduction in severe depression among NJ youth.



70% of students referred to NJ4S for mental health support services accessed the resources they needed.

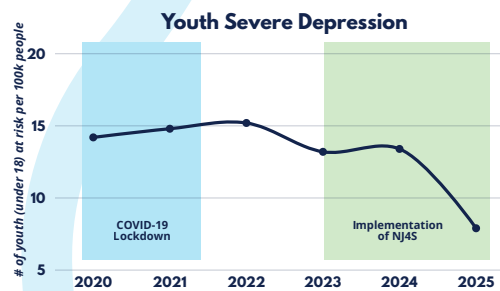
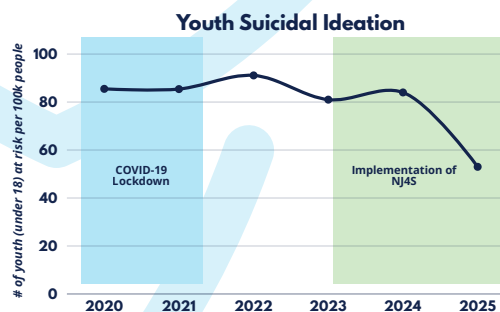


Two-thirds of groups in evidence-based programs saw measurable improvements in reducing depression and anxiety.



NJ4S met nearly 97% of request needs from partnered schools.

The need for student mental health support remains high, and schools are turning to NJ4S. The implementation of evidence-informed programs increased by 61.9% after the first year, and direct clinical support increased by 101.9%. These connections are built over time. Ending NJ4S would disrupt trusted relationships and leave schools to rebuild support systems from the ground up.



Mental Health America's County and State Data Map. Mental Health Screening 2020 - 2025.

YEAR 1	YEAR 2
15,315	24,792
61.9% increase	
This growth shows that schools trust NJ4S to deliver proven prevention and intervention services where they're needed most.	
1,127	2,276
101.9% increase	
More students are receiving direct clinical support in schools, highlighting both increased need and trust in NJ4S services.	

For more information about NJ4S in Hudson County contact Irakli Kakauridze at IKakauridze@pipnj.org