

STUDENTS SAID...

- I had a good time, and the facilitators were really good.
- I enjoyed it. I could be open and honest without being judged.
- Manytown made me think of things I didn't even realize. Because my high school isn't very diverse, I haven't really thought about what would happen if it was.
- It allowed me to open my eyes and be able to connect with people from other schools who deal with tough situations everyday.
- I seriously enjoyed this experience and think more students should be given the opportunity to come to a Manytown Conference.
- This is my 4th Manytown and I take away something new each time.
- It was a very valuable experience and I feel I got to know/understand people that are different from me.
- [Manytown is a] very good opportunity to connect with students from other schools around the same area and discuss common issues in our schools.
- I think that programs like this are really important and teens need to be more aware of these types of issues. It's great to see so many teens willing to come out and participate.
- It was a great and educational experience. I would like to come back. The things I learned I will take back to my school and teach others.
- It was great! I have more of an urge to stop violence/bullying.
- I feel that this experience was very helpful. I learned a lot and feel more comfortable with confronting bullies and helping other people.
- I felt it was an extremely good experience in which I can take what I have learned and educate people in my school about it.
- I thought the program was very well organized and structured well. I will use my knowledge to help decrease prejudice in my school.
- I really enjoyed my experience. It opened my eyes to how others in New Jersey schools experience and live with bullying and prejudice.
- I believe this experience was a good one. People were able to voice their opinions and experiences while others gained knowledge of what's going on, how people feel, and how things can be stopped.
- I think it was great—an awesome experience learning about different people and their backgrounds. Anyone and everyone should attend this experience. Your program has taught me some strategies to deal with problems in my school.
- It was a wonderful way to educate the youth about how they truly view bullying, and how/why they should stand up and make change.
- It was a good experience because not only did I get to see and meet other people from different parts of NJ, I also learned how to react and take action toward prejudice and hopefully prevent it.



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MANYTOWNSM

HUMAN RELATIONS YOUTH FORUM

2008-2009



Manytown Human Relations Youth Forums are one-day youth leadership programs provided by the American Conference on Diversity's Youth Leadership Institute. Manytown provides the opportunity for New Jersey high school students from diverse ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds to discuss relevant issues and identify strategies to improve inter-group relations in their schools and communities. The Manytown Forums are no-cost gatherings held in four regional locations throughout New Jersey. Each forum is planned and facilitated by students who have been trained to lead a conversation about the selected Manytown topic. Students participating in Manytown have the opportunity to model leadership skills and participate in open, honest conversation with their peers. Participants also discuss strategies for increasing awareness and promoting diversity within their schools.

High School Impact- Regional Focus

Students from four regions across New Jersey (Central Jersey, Jersey Shore, North Jersey, and South Jersey) participated in one-day workshops addressing prejudice, bias-related bullying, and acts of violence. Following the workshop, students contributed to peer-led discussion groups in which they identified and practiced strategies to effectively resolve incidents of prejudice and bullying in their schools.

2008-2009 Participating Schools

<i>Absegami High School</i>	<i>Lakewood High School</i>
<i>Asbury Park High School</i>	<i>Manalapan High School</i>
<i>Atlantic City Day Program</i>	<i>Maple Shade High School</i>
<i>Bishop Ahr High School</i>	<i>Memorial High School (West New York)</i>
<i>Butler High School</i>	<i>Middlesex High School</i>
<i>Central Regional High School</i>	<i>Midland Park High School</i>
<i>ChARTer Technical for the Performing Arts</i>	<i>Neptune High School</i>
<i>Collier High School</i>	<i>New Brunswick High School</i>
<i>Colts Neck High School</i>	<i>New Egypt High School</i>
<i>Egg Harbor Township High School</i>	<i>North Warren Regional High School</i>
<i>Freehold Borough High School</i>	<i>Northern Burlington Co. Regional H.S</i>
<i>Freehold Township High School</i>	<i>Perth Amboy High School</i>
<i>Gill St. Bernard's School</i>	<i>Princeton Day School</i>
<i>Governor Livingston High School</i>	<i>Purnell School</i>
<i>Harrison High School</i>	<i>Ridgefield Memorial High School</i>
<i>Hoboken High School</i>	<i>Rutgers Preparatory School</i>
<i>Howell High School</i>	<i>Rutherford High School</i>
<i>Hunterdon Central High School</i>	<i>Southern Residential Community Home</i>
<i>Indian Hills High School</i>	<i>St. Benedict's Preparatory School</i>
<i>Jackson Liberty High School</i>	<i>Toms River - North High School</i>
<i>Jonathan Dayton High School</i>	<i>Vernon Township High School</i>
<i>Kearny High School</i>	<i>William L. Dickinson High School</i>
<i>Kent Place School</i>	

Manytown 2008- 2009: By The Numbers

617 students from 54 schools across the state participated in one of the four regional Manytown Forums.

Manytown participants completed an assessment following each of their Forums. Following is a summary of their feedback:

MANYTOWN PARTICIPANT SURVEY

	Strongly Agree / Agree
◆ <i>Considered the Manytown Forum to be a valuable use of their time</i>	99.2%
◆ <i>Are more aware of how their personal behaviors and actions affect their relationships with others</i>	97.9%
◆ <i>Have increased knowledge of the different forms of bullying and violence that occur in local schools</i>	99.6%
◆ <i>Have increased knowledge of the various forms of prejudice occurring in local schools</i>	96.4%
◆ <i>Have increased understanding of how they can intervene in or reduce incidents of bullying, violence, and prejudice in their schools</i>	96.5%
◆ <i>Are more aware of how they can be allies to individuals facing bias-related bullying associated with actual or perceived identities</i>	97.4%
◆ <i>Had the opportunity to interact with peers from diverse backgrounds</i>	99.0%
◆ <i>Felt that the student facilitators made it comfortable and safe to discuss sensitive issues</i>	98.7%
◆ <i>Felt that the workshop facilitators made it comfortable and safe to discuss sensitive issues</i>	98.5%
◆ <i>Learned things today that they will be able to apply when they return to their schools and communities</i>	98.5%