

Border Health and Asylum Seeker Care

Legislative Finance Committee Hearing
Oct. 3, 2019 • Deming, N.M.

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NMDOH Asylum Seeker Care

Goals

- Provide acute care to asylum seekers
- Help them reach their final destination healthy
- Act as a vetting source for medical providers
- Deliver consistency in care
- Support and collaborate with local communities

Staff

- NMDOH clinicians, nurses, pharmacy and clerical staff
 - 72 FTE from Public Health Division (all classifications) involved
 - 1,547 hours provided for planning, coordinating and support for field operation
 - 1,318 hours provided for direct care
- Medical volunteers sourced through the NMDOH's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)
 - 71 volunteers served in Deming
 - 133 volunteers serves in Las Cruces
 - 3,000 hours of direct care provided between both locations
- Hired a contract site coordinator for Deming
- Provide liability coverage for providers
- Establish supplemental Border Health Elective

Supplies

- Mobile Medical Unit
- Over the counter medications (e.g., ibuprofen, decongestant, hydrocortisone creme, etc.)
- Flu vaccines
- Medical and office equipment (exam table, otoscope, stethoscopes, printer, storage containers, etc.)
- Medical and office supplies (tongue depressors, cotton swabs, printer paper and cartridges, etc.)



Asylum Seeker Medical Assessments

Total Number of Medical Assessments Conducted by NMDOH/MRC: **3,396**

Deming: 1,295 (from May 18–Sept. 27, 2019)

Las Cruces: 1,949 (from March 11–Sept. 27, 2019)

Total Number of Asylum Seekers Present in Shelters: **25,829**

Deming: 8,629 (from May 18–Sept. 27, 2019)

Las Cruces: 17,200 (from March 11–Sept. 27, 2019)

Percent of Asylum Seekers that Received a NMDOH/MRC Medical Assessment: **13.18%**

Deming: 15.01% (from May 18–Sept. 27, 2019)

Las Cruces: 11.28% (from March 11–Sept. 27, 2019)

Total Number of Emergency Room Transports for Deming and Las Cruces: **159**

Emergency room transports include transports requested outside of a NMDOH/MRC assessment (e.g., local EMS, ICE, or general shelter staff)

| Week | Las Cruces | Deming | ER Transports | Total |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 3/11-3/17 | 54 | N/A | 0 | 54 |
| 3/18-3/24 | 69 | N/A | 6 | 69 |
| 3/25-3/31 | 82 | N/A | 1 | 82 |
| 4/1-4/7 | 58 | N/A | 0 | 58 |
| 4/8-4/14 | 79 | N/A | 7 | 86 |
| 4/15-4/21 | 274 | N/A | 25 | 299 |
| 4/22-4/28 | 54 | N/A | 7 | 69 |
| 4/19-5/8 | N/A | N/A | 11 | 11 |
| 5/10-5/17 | 255 | N/A | 13 | 268 |
| 5/18-5/24 | 12 | 150 | 15 | 177 |
| 5/25-5/31 | 120 | 160 | 6 | 286 |
| 6/1-6/7 | 82 | 273 | 2 | 357 |
| 6/8-6/14 | 142 | 84 | 16 | 242 |
| 6/15-6/21 | 78 | 97 | 9 | 184 |
| 6/22-6/28 | 60 | 59 | 7 | 126 |
| 6/29-7/5 | 97 | 96 | 7 | 200 |
| 7/6-7/12 | 219 | 39 | 3 | 261 |
| 7/13-7/19 | 86 | 22 | 3 | 111 |
| 7/20-7/26 | 23 | 118 | 5 | 146 |
| 7/27-8/2 | 72 | 112 | 7 | 191 |
| 8/3-8/9 | 16 | 81 | 6 | 103 |
| 8/10-8/16 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 8/17-8/23 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| 8/24-8/30 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 8/31-9/6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 9/7-9/13 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 9/14-9/20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9/21-9/27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1,949 | 1,295 | 159 | 3,396 |

Asylum Seeker Infectious Disease Surveillance

The NMDOH Epidemiology and Response Division monitors infectious diseases, injuries and health statistics along the border. Data is collected from the following sources with respect to asylum seeker care:

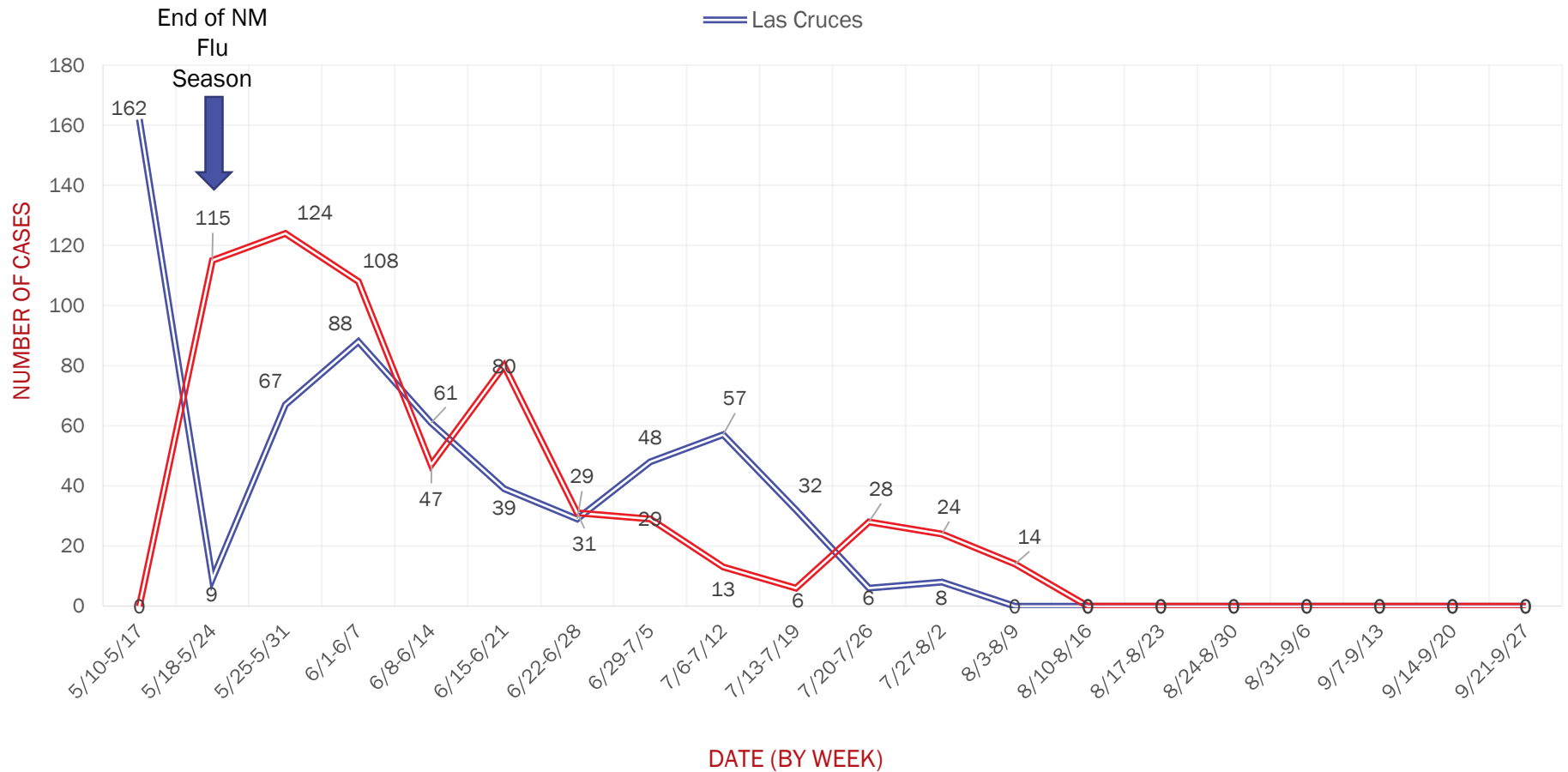
- Medical assessment forms completed at shelters
- EMS run reports from shelters or points of detention (e.g., CBP facility) to hospitals

Influenza-Like Illness Activity in Asylum Seekers
May 10–Sept. 27, 2019

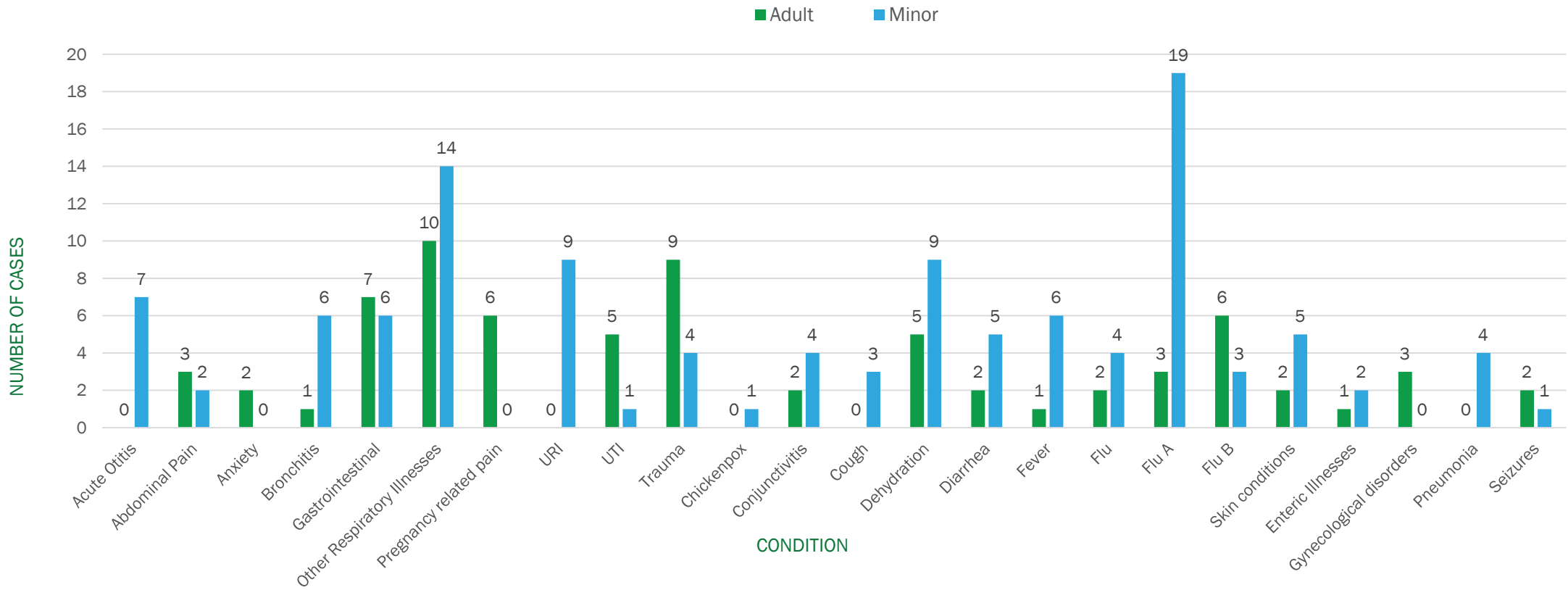
The following graph summarizes ILL activity observed in asylum seekers during medical assessments conducted by NMDOH/MRC.

The 2019 New Mexico flu season ended May 18, 2019.

The NMDOH/MRC offered flu vaccinations to all asylum seekers present in the Deming shelter. The vaccine was administered to those who accepted it until the vaccine's expiration on June 30, 2019. Flu vaccinations were not administered in Las Cruces.



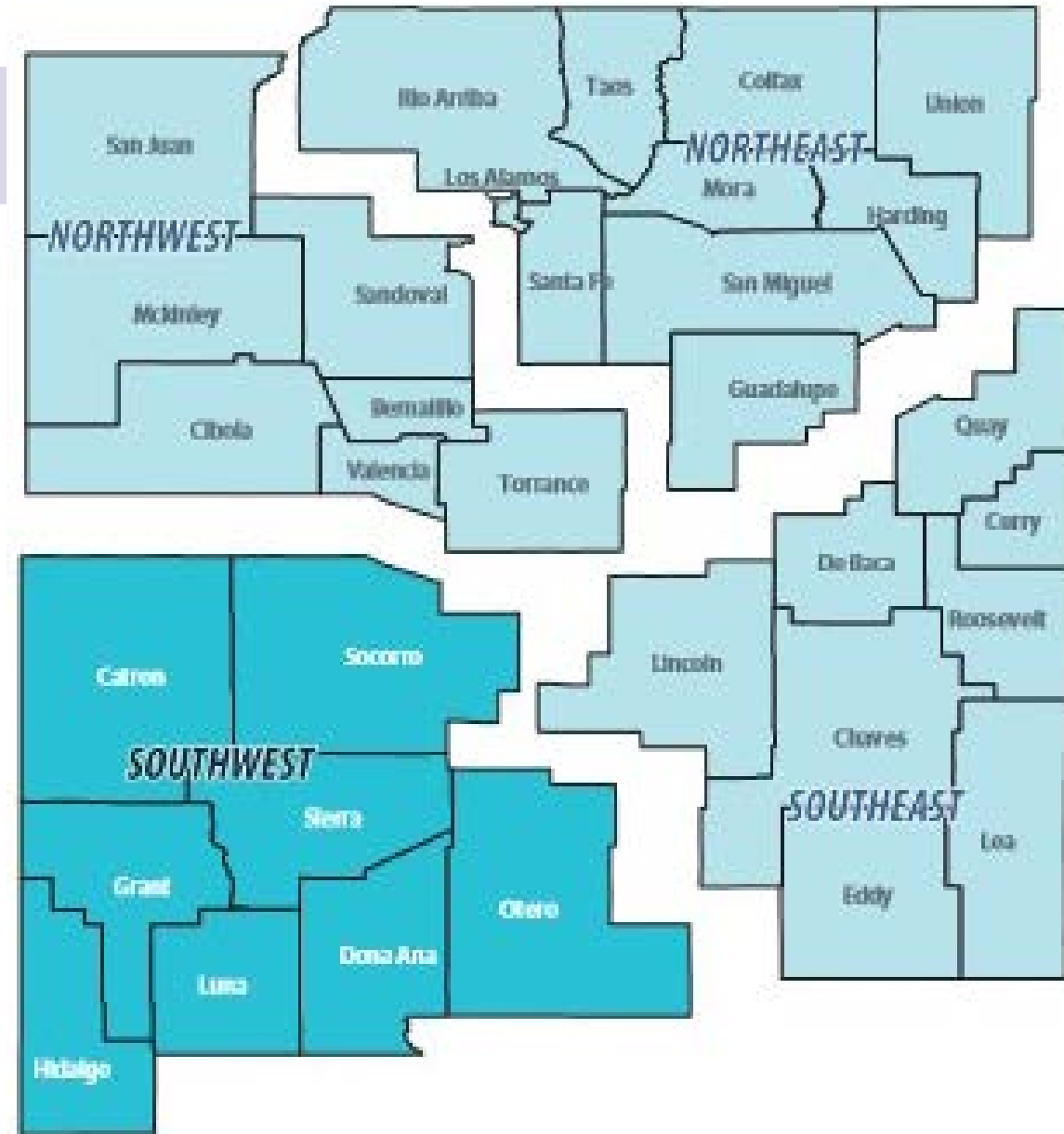
Top Conditions Among Asylum Seekers Discharged from Emergency Room March 11–Sept. 27, 2019



NMDOH Border Health

Southwest Region

consists of Catron, Doña Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, Otero, Sierra and Socorro counties



NMDOH Border Health Focuses

Substance Misuse

The Southwest Region ranked 4th out of five New Mexico Public Health Division Regions for drug overdose death rate in 2017 with 20.9 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 population.

Teen Births/ Delayed Pregnancy

In 2019, the Southwest Region had the 2nd highest birth rate to 15-19 year old females among the five New Mexico public health regions. The birth rate for 15-19 year olds was 32 births per 1,000 females.

Chronic Disease

The Southwest Region had the 2nd highest percentage (11.5 percent respondents) of all five New Mexico public health regions respondents with doctor-diagnosed diabetes during 2017.

Obesity/ Food Access

The Southwest Region had the 2nd highest percentage (16.3 percent respondents) of all five New Mexico respondents of food insecure households for 2017.

Access to Care

All Southwest Region counties are either designated as full or partial county health professional shortage area.

Border Health Elective

Beginning Oct. 22, 2019

Why

The U.S.–Mexico border is a unique region with its own specific health care challenges including:

- Poverty
- Rural and frontier areas
- No or limited access to healthcare
- Logistics (transportation, internet, etc.)
- Lack of community resources
- Overburdened volunteer efforts during times of asylum seeker influx

What

The Border Health Elective serves as a safety net for areas along the border. It is:

- A learning and experiential program for two medical residents at a time on a four-week rotation cycle
- Focused on border health and asylum seeker care
- Engaged in community health
- Adaptable based on interstate and international needs

How

The Border Health Elective will educate its participants and aid in health needs along the border through:

- Funding provided by NMDOH
- Promotion through UNM Medical School
- Supervision by the Southern New Mexico Family Medicine Residency Program