

The University of New Mexico

*A School of Public Health*

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# *The University of New Mexico*

- New Mexico has serious public health workforce shortages:
  - environmental health workers
  - epidemiologists
  - health economists
  - health law and health policy experts
- Few dental health professionals are trained in public health.
- Public health nurses are needed for disaster preparedness and immunization coverage.



## New Mexico's Public Health Status:

- 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation in prescription drug overdoses
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in uninsured and underinsured people
- 5<sup>th</sup> in poor mental health days
- 7<sup>th</sup> in inadequate immunization coverage
- 8<sup>th</sup> in untreated dental decay and caries (cavities)
- Higher than national average in deaths due to
  - diabetes and influenza
  - motor vehicle crashes
  - drug and alcohol related deaths
  - homicide and youth suicide
- Specific populations experience significant health disparities.

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- House Memorial 43 requests the Higher Education Department (HED) Secretary to study the feasibility of establishing a School of Public Health in NM:
  - UNM will be providing to the HED the Health Sciences Center “Study to Assess Feasibility of a School of Public Health in NM” report.
- We established a task force to explore opportunity and partnership with:
  - DOH Public Health Division and NMSU College of Health and Social Services.
- We reviewed the need for pipeline training programs:
  - 21 community colleges have science-related training programs.
  - UNM HSC SPH can be a pipeline for faculty.
  - Students from those programs can be trained in public health.



## ➤ Accreditation

- Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH):
  - Independent agency recognized by the US Department of Education to accredit schools of public health and public health programs offered in settings other than schools of public health.
- National accreditation consistent with other Schools of Public Health offering quality and excellence in education:
  - Attract best and brightest students
  - Attract high caliber faculty
  - Attract international students
  - Likely increases in research funding

➤ Requirements for CEPH accredited School of Public Health:

- Can provide training of public health disciplines that address the health of the population through education, research and service.
- Maintain an organizational structure that embraces the vision, goals and values of public health.



➤ Requirements for CEPH accredited School of Public Health:

- Faculty and other resources in five areas:
  - Biostatistics
  - Epidemiology
  - Environmental Health Sciences
  - Health Services Administration
  - Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Provide a Masters of Public Health in each area and a doctoral degree in at least 3 of the 5.
- Provide instruction, research and service activities that are relevant to its students and its community.

## ➤ Why UNM HSC

- Strong foundation in innovative training in population-based approaches to disease prevention
- 3 accredited MPH concentrations: Epidemiology, Community Health, and Health Services Administration.
- Currently offer a Public Health Certificate in the undergraduate medical school curriculum and dual degree offerings in MD/MPH
- UNM has 57 faculty members who have public health degrees.
- Existing collaborations with NMSU and the Department of Health.
- Executive leadership that is experienced in the process and its requirements.



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## ➤ UNM proposes to:

- Take one year to develop a comprehensive plan for a School of Public Health that will be:
  - CEPH accredited
  - Serve all of New Mexico
  - Address all 5 areas of Public Health:
    - Biostatistics
    - Epidemiology
    - Environmental Health Sciences
    - Health Services Administration
    - Social and Behavioral Sciences
- An undergraduate program and additional concentrations in global health and health policy.

# QUESTIONS?