

What is Public Health?

- Public health is clean water, food safety, clean air, pedestrian safety, zoning laws, school lunches, infant vaccinations, seat belts and smoking laws
- Public health provides resources to create environments that help people stay healthy
- Public health interventions can reduce healthcare costs; leading to better economic productivity and an improved quality of life for everyone



New Mexico's Need for More Education in Public Health

- The Affordable Care Act will create a shortage of trained healthcare providers
- Public health interventions can reduce the burden on health care providers
- Healthcare systems should include population health services and be measured by the health and wellness of their populations



UNM HSC Strategic Plan Alignment

- **Goal 1:** Improve public health and health care to the populations we serve with community-wide solutions
- **Goal 2:** Build the workforce of New Mexico by providing a premier education and transformative experience that prepares students to excel in the workplace
- **Goal 3:** Foster innovation, discovery and creativity, and translate our research and discoveries into clinical or educational practice



College of Public Health Goals

- Improve the health of all New Mexicans
- Provide a trained public health-related workforce in New Mexico, for New Mexico
- Improve statewide alliances and engagement with communities, public health-related organizations, health services and centers to reach common goals
- Enhance population health services to reduce burden on healthcare systems
- Contribute to policies that advance health and education
- Collaborate with NMSU to promote education accessibility, reduce redundancy and improve course offerings



New Mexico's Public Health Workforce Needs

State of New Mexico Occupational Employment Statistics 2010-2020

Standard Occupational Titles	2010 Employment	Projected 2020 Employment	Total Change	Annual % Change	Total % Change	Annual Openings Due to Growth	Annual Openings Due to Replacements	Total Annual Openings
Home Health Aides	8,231	13,176	4,945	4.80%	60.10%	494	106	600
Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists	393	518	125	2.80%	31.80%	12	2	14
Health Educators	479	625	146	2.70%	30.50%	15	10	25
Environmental Science/Protection Technicians	138	170	32	2.10%	23.20%	3	6	9
Dietitians and Nutritionists	229	275	46	1.80%	20.10%	5	8	13
Medical and Health Services Managers	1,508	1,810	302	1.80%	20.00%	30	37	67
Epidemiologists	**	**	1	1.80%	20.00%	0	0	0
Occupational Health and Safety Technicians	102	122	20	1.80%	19.60%	2	4	6
Occupational Health and Safety Specialists	551	657	106	1.80%	19.20%	11	19	30
Environmental Scientists and Specialists	369	433	64	1.60%	17.30%	6	11	17
Mental Health/Substance Abuse Social Workers	1,979	2,294	315	1.50%	15.90%	32	47	79
Social and Human Service Assistants	2,979	3,423	444	1.40%	14.90%	44	64	108
Statisticians	54	61	7	1.20%	13.00%	1	3	4
Sociologists	**	**	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0

Source: New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions
 ** Represents data that is suppressed.



NM Public Health-Related Job Postings

January 1, 2013 to October 18, 2013

Title	OPEN JOB ORDERS		CLOSED JOB ORDERS		NOT FILLED	
	Total Job Orders	Total Job Openings	Total Job Orders	Total Job Openings	Openings Not Filled	% Not Filled
Statisticians	3	3	2	2	1	33.3%
Environmental Scientists and Specialists	35	35	20	20	15	42.9%
Environmental Science and Protection Technicians	17	17	12	12	5	29.4%
Health Educators	19	22	13	16	6	27.3%
Dietitians and Nutritionists	19	19	14	14	5	26.3%
Medical Records and Health Information Technicians	98	99	82	83	16	16.2%
Home Health Aides	98	212	62	144	68	32.1%

Source: New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions



UNM Public Health Program Highlights

- Started in 1994
- Graduated over 300 students
- Masters of Public Health
 - Three concentrations:
 - Epidemiology
 - Community Health Interventions
 - Health Services, Systems and Policy
 - Dual degree offerings
- Public Health Certificate for all Medical Students
- Accredited through 2017

Demographics of UNM Public Health Program Graduates

Ethnicity and Gender of Students Enrolled from 1994 - 2013

Demographic Characteristics		Students Enrolled (1994 – 2013)	%
Ethnicity	African American	5	1.6
	American Indian	45	14.5
	Asian	14	4.5
	Caucasian	171	55.0
	Hispanic	52	16.7
	Other	21	6.8
	Unknown	3	0.9
Gender	Women	231	74.3
	Men	80	25.7
Total		311	

UNM Public Health Program Alumni

	Earned Degrees*	Jobs After Graduation In and Out of State					
		Alumni Residing In New Mexico	Alumni Residing Out of State	Alumni Employed with UNM	Alumni Employed with DOH	Alumni Employed with Indian Health Services	Alumni Employed with Other
Total	140	97	43	39	16	18	67

**2002-2012 sample gathered from reporting alumni*

Alumni Areas of Occupational Focus

Physicians
Epidemiologists
Scientists
Educators
Administrators



Advantages of a Collaborative College of Public Health with NMSU

- Reduce course redundancy
- Standardize core courses across universities
- Broaden course offerings to include strengths of each respective institution
- Build on existing collaborations
- Increase capacity for public health research



Public Health Interventions Can Reduce Costs

- American Diabetes Association estimates direct health care costs and complications to be about \$1.7 billion in New Mexico, not including costs due to reduced work performance, lost work days, reduced worker productivity and care provided by non-paid caregivers.
- Prescription opioid abuse, dependence and misuse cost New Mexico \$890 million.
- The cost of alcohol abuse in New Mexico was estimated to be \$2.5 billion. The economic burden of alcohol abuse amounted to over \$1,250 for every person in the state.
- 2,100 people die from tobacco use annually and another 42,000 are living with tobacco-related diseases in New Mexico. Annual smoking-related \$954 million (\$461 million in direct medical costs and \$493 million in lost productivity).

New Mexico Department of Health Indicator-Based Information System



UNM Public Health Projects for Tribal Populations

Circle Project- Jemez, Ramah Navajo and Mescalero

An intergenerational (child/ parent/elder) family prevention program to increase cultural identity, coping, self-confidence, and decrease depression in children and adult participants, including increased awareness about the importance of native language, culture, health, family communication and increased coping and control.

RezRIDERS Project- Jemez, Santa Clara and Mescalero Apache Nation

Addresses alcohol use—including binge drinking— and substance abuse prevention among youth. RezRIDERS (Reducing Risk through Interpersonal Development, Empowerment, Resiliency and Self Determination) pairs rebel extreme-sports with an behavior-change curriculum, community responsibility and adult cultural mentors; in an indigenized year-round—and life changing—program for high-risk AI youth.

Tribal Preventative and Early Mental Health Intervention, Lincoln County

A culturally responsive prevention intervention to reduce mental, emotional and behavioral problems for tribal youth/ teens/ adolescents such as PTSD, depression, early signs of psychosis and the impact of historical trauma upon the youth

Navajo Uranium Assessment and Kidney Health Project, McKinley County

Investigates high prevalence of chronic kidney disease in communities of the Navajo Nation impacted by uranium mining to reduce uranium exposures due to drinking water from unregulated sources.

A Prospective Birth Cohort Study Involving Uranium Exposure in the Navajo Nation, San Juan County

Studies the prenatal, perinatal, and early postnatal health effects of environmental exposures to uranium and related mining wastes on Navajo mothers and their infants.



UNM Public Health Projects Nutrition

Fiestas Project

A collaborative community-based intervention to improve food security in Santa Barbara Martineztown for women as family health and nutrition decision-makers. The project helps women in the community to connect people with information about food, food access and nutrition; with services related to food supports such as WIC or SNAP; and with each other for social supports that undergird basic survival for low-income families.

Adolescents Committed to Improvement of Nutrition & Physical Activity (ACTION)

Epidemic of childhood obesity has led to the recognition of metabolic syndrome which places our children at increased risk for developing type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. This study, funded by NIH/NHLBI, evaluates the effects of clinical encounters with a school-based health center primary care provider using motivational interviewing techniques and a multidisciplinary intervention program to motivate 9th, 10th and 11th graders in adopting healthier eating and physical activity habits.

Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study, Bernalillo County

Studies the effects of prevention and lifestyle intervention programs in preventing diabetes.



UNM Public Health Projects Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Treating Pain and Addictions in New Mexico

UNM faculty have trained over 2,000 clinicians throughout NM regarding safe opioid prescribing and best practices in pain management. Since December 2011, the NM Board of Pharmacy has noted a continuous and steady decline in the dispensing of morphine milligram equivalents and benzodiazepine milligram equivalents, the two most dangerous controlled substances dispensed.

Mental Health First Aid, Rio Arriba County

Skill building program serving persons facing the challenges of mental health illness and/or addictions by creating opportunities for improving their general life skills through environments that support recovery, self-efficacy, and empowerment, as well as assisting in improving a person's daily life. Classes include relaxation/meditation, GED prep, budgeting, computer skills and communication.

NIMH Outreach Partnership, Sandoval County

Increase access to science based information about mental health conditions to underserved groups. In conjunction with ongoing activities around the state, it disseminates educational materials and offers access to training and consultation on mental health symptoms and conditions.



UNM Public Health Projects Community

Intimate Partner Violence Death Review Team

A statewide multidisciplinary team funded by the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission and administered by UNM's Center for Injury Prevention Research and Education (CIPRE). Identifies gaps in the responses to domestic and sexual violence at the community and statewide levels and creates solutions for positive change for victims of domestic and sexual violence. The IPVDR's goal is to prevent future domestic and sexual violence related injury and death.

Pedestrian Safety (CIPRE), "Look For Me Campaign"

The program focuses on the 5 cities with the highest number and rate of pedestrian fatalities including, Albuquerque, Gallup, Farmington, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe. The campaign promotes pedestrian safety as a responsibility of both the driver and pedestrian.

Health Literacy and English as a Foreign Language Course

Working in Martineztown, this project collaborates with ESL programs to improve health literacy and reduce risks for cardiovascular disease in this vulnerable population.



Questions?

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