



**State:** New Mexico

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## **Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:**

### **IMMUNIZATIONS**

1. A priority for public health this year has been immunizations. A number of creative initiatives have been used. One of the most successful was a “Bob the Builder” campaign in our southwest region. Bob the Builder was the feature movie shown in April at the Las Cruces for Snow Day Movie Mania. Free admission was tied to a review of a child’s immunization record. Children behind the CDC recommended scheduled were immunized in the theater lobby. Two hundred and twenty-eight (228) parents and children took advantage of the “free” movie, popcorn (without salt and butter), and a drink (water or juice) sponsored by members of the Doña Ana County Immunization Coalition from First Step Pediatrics, Las Compañeras, Memorial Medical Center, US-Mexico Border Health Commission, Allen Theaters, and NMDOH. One hundred fifty-three (153) children had their immunization status checked and thirty-five (35) children ages 4 months through 16 years received immunizations. The nurse behind this idea is Debby Hanus, and she will be recognized as an “Immunization Champion” at the NM Immunization Coalition Banquet in May.
2. Another successful initiative was in Sierra County (Truth or Consequences, NM) by the nurse manager, Majorie Powey. She overcame initial resistance from T or C school officials and a local chiropractor and successfully planned and completed Flu Mist Programs, November 24-December 5, 2008. She gained the approval of the school board after a presentation and citing a letter from Dr. Lance Chilton, an Albuquerque Pediatrician that explained the value of the vaccine. In addition, Majorie had the full support of school nurses and teachers in Sierra County. As a result, the school board approved the Flu Mist Pilot programs. Over 260 children were immunized.
3. In the Southeast region, the focus has been on training local providers on the CDC’s Vaccine for Children Program. All public and most private VFC agencies are now trained to enter immunization administration into the state registry. Similar efforts are now underway statewide.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

1. Many county offices are now conducting outreach to their local and state correction facilities. Services offered include STD, HIV, and Hepatitis screening. STDs are treated and the client is given a referral for follow-up at their local public health office for additional evaluation as needed.
2. Suboxone treatment is offered in the Bernalillo County Detention Center in Albuquerque.
3. Syringe Exchange programs are available in almost all of the 50 county offices.
4. Narcan programs have been initiated in every region.

## **TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION**

1. School Based Health Centers are in over 70 communities statewide. Some are supported through a state office program and others are local initiatives receiving guidance from the state offices. Services include mental health screening, primary care, family planning, immunizations, and STD screening and treatment.
2. The South Valley communities of Albuquerque have a successful Male Involvement Project which facilitates education, behavioral change, and critical thinking skills to promote improved decision-making among the male youth of the community.

## **REFUGEE HEALTH**

The Southeast Heights office in Albuquerque developed a database to follow their Refugee clients and increase participation in a “Get to know your neighbors” program. This program helps families adjust to their new community and develop support systems.

## **ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS**

All 50 local public health offices are now paperless on the hosted-web based system. Monthly conference calls are held to discuss problems and share tips statewide. Weekly webinars are used as an educational tool for specific aspects, such as DOT for TB clients, and medication entry. The webinars focus on a standard method for all staff to use, which supports consistency in reporting. The implementation was a phased roll-out from fall 2007 to July 2008. All offices can access reports showing client activity locally, regionally and statewide.

