



**NATIONAL
VIRAL HEPATITIS**
PREVENTION CONFERENCE 2005

Hyatt Regency Hotel
December 5 – 9, 2005





ECHO Hepatitis C Initiative: Public Health Primary Care Collaborative Model



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NM Secretary of Health

New Mexico's Demographic Challenges

- 5th largest state geographically in U.S.
- Population of 1.8 million
- Highest percentage of families living in poverty in U.S.
- 30% of children living in poverty
- Nearly half of American Indians and over ¼ of Hispanics at or below the poverty level
- About 400,000 people uninsured
- About 400,000 people on Medicaid

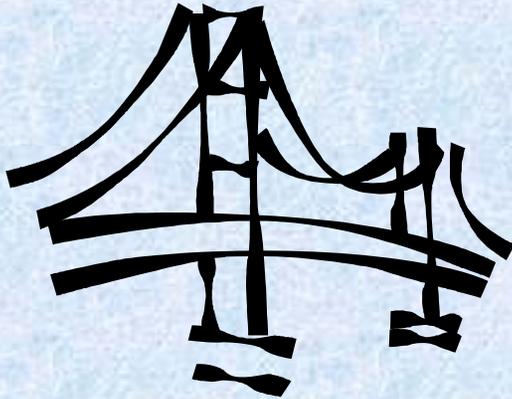
Hepatitis C in New Mexico

- About 35,000 people on DOH Hepatitis C Registry
- Highest death rate in U.S. due to cirrhosis and chronic liver disease
- At least 25% of inmates in New Mexico correctional facilities are hep C positive
- Primarily transmitted through injection drug use
 - 1995-97 street-based study of injection drug users in NM = 82.5% hep C positive



Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes

ECHO Partners



New Mexico Dept. of Health
University of New Mexico
Health Science Center
New Mexico Corrections Dept.
Primary Care Association
New Mexico Hepatitis C
Alliance



Use telemedicine and Internet to leverage scarce healthcare resources, reach rural communities, corrections population

Disease Management Model focused on improving outcomes by reducing variation in processes of care and sharing “best practices”

Professional development to manage complex treatment regimens with medical specialists

Centralized database HIPAA compliant to monitor outcomes

Free prescription drugs through pharmaceutical companies



Screen identified population
Awareness and education as to who should be screened
Approximately 200,000 persons in at-risk population

Identify whether using drugs
Yes **No**

Screening for hep C, vaccinate for hep A & B, harm reduction education, access to needle exchange programs, access to substance abuse treatment

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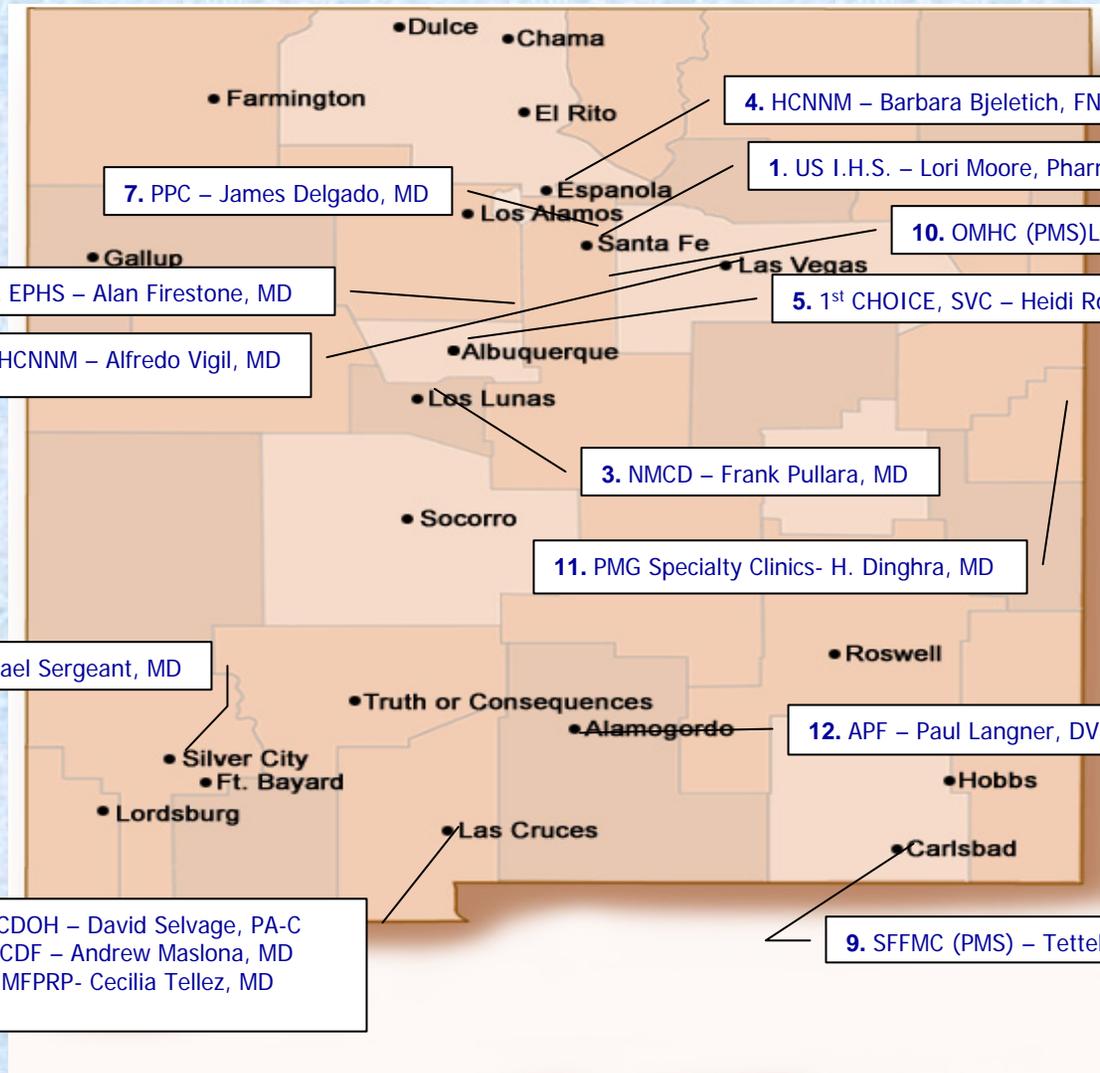
Gain medical home
Educated on symptom management, risk reduction

Treatment
Fall off Continue

Sustained Viral Response
Transmission stopped

Project ECHO Clinic Sites

Locations





FY 07 Goal: Reach 10,000 clients for referral and screening for hepatitis C.

Treat 5,000 patients through Echo Project

6 prison sites established

7 community sites established

Hepatitis C ECHO program in Doña Ana County testing 500 clients.

100 patients in active treatment



New Mexico Statewide Syringe Exchange and Harm Reduction

- 27 syringe exchange providers across the state
 - Drop boxes (safe disposal units for used needles) to be installed in all 33 counties
- Over 9000 enrollees to date
- Since program began in 1998, 1000 new enrollees per year
- 98% exchange rate
- 1.5 million syringes exchanged annually
- Largest syringe exchange in North America
- Adult hepatitis vaccine *and* testing available at every syringe exchange site

Next Steps

- Expand ECHO to 33 sites
- Expand treatment to realize FY07 goal of 5,000 patients/year
- Expand disease management model to other chronic diseases
- Expand telehealth to more primary, acute and long-term health issues in state.



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