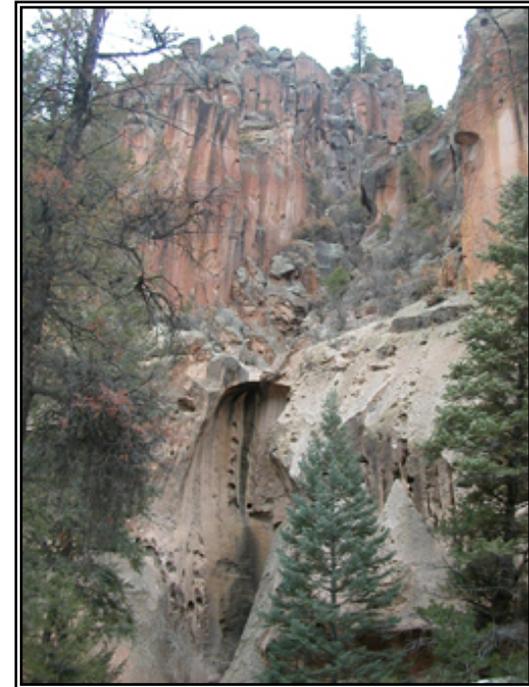


Environmental Health Capacity Building in New Mexico



**Environmental Health
Epidemiology Unit
New Mexico Department of
Health**

EHCB is funded through a cooperative agreement with the CDC/NCEH.



NM Department of Health Environmental Health Epidemiology Program

Program Activities:

- EH Capacity Building
- Asthma Planning, Surveillance & Education
- Lead Poisoning Case Management
- Waterborne Disease Surveillance
- EH Biomonitoring
- EH Tracking
- General EH Response



Program is entirely
funded by
categorical federal
grants

EHCB Long-Term Outcomes

- 
- 1. Enhanced Inventory of EH Resources**
 - 2. Development of a Sustainable Network of EH Professionals & Citizens**
 - 3. Provision of Tools for CEHA**
 - 4. Guidance & Testing of Environment & Health Data Sharing/Linking**

Enhanced Inventory of EH Resources

1. Development of a Web-Based EH Resource Directory

Features:

- Available EH training, education & technical assistance
- Educational materials, fact sheets, EH issue information
- EH related programs and groups, with contact information
- EH data and surveillance sources

2. Development of Training Materials

Some examples:

- Indoor air quality assessment.
- *The Community Environmental Health Assessment Toolbox for NM*
- NM specific fact sheets (ex. pesticides, graywater, firesmoke), cancer surveillance materials and outreach, state-wide EH newsletter

Develop A Sustainable Network of EH Professionals and Citizens

1. NM Annual Public Health and EH Conferences

- Established EH tracks at both conferences and coordinated cross-presentations and attendance

2. EH Coordinating Council

- Recognized by Governor who appointed Secretaries of both Health and Environment Departments to serve
- Includes representation from EH agencies, advocacy groups, tribal associations, universities, & border health representatives
- Council was formally invited to submit 1st time EH component to the Governor's State-Wide Health Plan

Develop A Sustainable Network of EH Professionals and Citizens

3. Planning for Risk Assessment and EH Improvement

- Networking Groups on risk assessment, groundwater/residential wells,
- EH Advisory Committee (prioritization of EH issues and collaborative development of strategies to remedy EH problems)
- NM Asthma Coalition

Provide Tools for Community Environmental Health Assessment

1. Mini-grants & Technical Assistance to Community, Pueblo & Tribal Health Councils

- Provided resources to enable Councils to include (*for 1st time*) an EH component in their annual Community Health Profile
- Provided 1 day trainings around state on CEHA, incorporating and applying NM-specific scenarios and data

2. Conducted Assessments:

- Four Corners Ozone/Asthma & Respiratory Outcomes Assessment
- Corrales Air Quality Study
- Provided biomonitoring to communities to supplement other health risk information and data

Guidance & Testing of Environment & Health Data Sharing and Linking

1. **Developed NM Specific EH Indicators (through the Environmental Health Advisory Committee)**

2. **Acquisition of Environmental and Health Data Tracking and Biomonitoring Grants to Study & Improve EH surveillance**

Data Linkage Projects:

- arsenic in drinking water and cancer outcomes
- air quality and asthma/respiratory health outcomes
- volatile organic compounds (VOC's) in drinking water and low birthweight

Summary of Improved EH Capacity

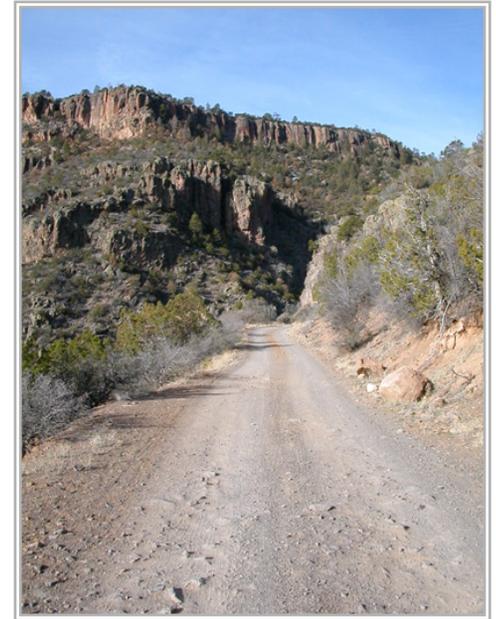
The EHCB Cooperative Agreement has improved the ability for EH professionals to provide the 10 essential EH services by:

- Increasing the awareness and knowledge of EH issues for public health and other professionals,
- Strengthening the CEHA process,
- Creating stronger links with the Environment Department and other important collaborators, and
- Improving surveillance data for diagnosing and investigating EH problems and health hazards.

The Road Ahead

A Few Ideas About Future EH Capacity Needs

- Resources to address issues prioritized in the 2004 State-wide EH plan
- Full time staff for CEHA support
- Maintenance of EH Resource Directory
- EH Coordinating Council funded
- Resources to better analyze data & respond to community concerns (*in a timely manner*) about environmental exposure and adverse health outcome data



Environmental Health Epidemiology Program

NM Department of Health



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