



# New Mexico

Surveillance and Monitoring  
Processes to Support Substance  
Abuse Prevention in Local  
Communities

# Snapshot

---

- New Mexico is fortunate to have very strong institutional support for surveillance systems
- As a result the surveillance activity is vigorous and institutionalized
- Monitoring, as we think of it, is not as evident – our SEW has focused its efforts there

# Internal Elements

---

- Strong Professional Epi Staff at Department of Health
  - Fifty (50!) Epidemiologists within the Department of Health
  - Commitment by Department to Collecting, Analyzing and Sharing Data
  - Four Substance Abuse Epidemiologists
-

# Internal Data Sources

---

- Youth Risk and Resilience Survey (YRRS)
- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- Environmental Public Health Tracking System
- Lead Exposure Database Tracking System

# Internal Data Sources

---

- NM Infectious Disease Surveillance System
  - NM HIV/AIDS Surveillance Database
  - NM Violent Death Reporting System
  - Child Fatality Review Database
  - Firearm Death Database
  - Vital Records (all birth and death data)
-

# Internal Data Sources

---

- PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System)
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Database
- NM Immunization Database
- NM Birth Defects Registry
- NM Newborn Screening Database
- NM Tumor Registry

# External Data Sources

---

- Death-autopsy data; drug overdose data (Office of the Medical Investigator)
  - Treatment Data (Human Services Department)
  - Medicaid Data (Human Services Department)
  - Drivers License Data (Motor Vehicle Department)
  - Licensure data for alcohol retailers (Alcohol and Gaming Division)
  - Citation Database for illegal sales to minors and intoxicated adults (State Police)
-

# External Data Sources

---

- Screening and Tracking System for DWI offenders (Department of Finance and Administration)
- Hospital Patient Discharge Data (Health Policy Commission)
- Traffic Safety Data (Division of Government Research, UNM)
- Population Data (Bureau of Business and Economic Research, UNM)
- Uniform Crime Reports (FBI)
- Fatality Analysis Reporting System (NHTSA)

# Relationship of New Mexico Prevention to Epi Staff

- Long term collaboration
- Funding for Student Survey
- Funding for SPF SIG Epidemiologist
- Funding for other surveillance and publication activities

# Substance Abuse Publications

---

## Institutional reports that include state level data:

- New Mexico Epidemiology journal
- Burden of Substance Abuse in NM
- Bi-annual YRRS student survey data
- NM Social Indicator Report (bi-annual)

## These have county level data:

- NM State Epidemiology Profile (SPF SIG)
  - SPF SIG County Data Fact Sheets
-

# What is monitoring in NM?

- We think of monitoring as the examination of data to assess changes that result from planned activity, primarily at the local level.
- The data come from a range of systems and databases, and in some cases must be collected or gathered within the community from various sectors such as law enforcement, the courts, newspapers, new survey data, etc.
- The SEW is establishing a process to monitor changes we hope to observe as the result of strategies – using a theory-driven model.

# SPF SIG Statewide Epi Workgroup

---

## Membership:

- Epidemiology Staff
  - State and Local Evaluators
  - Tribal Epi Workgroup
  - Local Program Staff
  - TA Providers
  - State Agency data-savvy staff for Prevention, EUDL, Traffic Safety, DWI
  - Contracted Facilitation/Coordination Staff
-

# Statewide Epi Workgroup

---

- State level surveillance of substance abuse issues is sufficiently addressed by Epidemiology Division
  - NM SEW role is to select county level data that is relevant to community work and disseminate it for the purpose of monitoring severity and changes in local conditions
-

# Statewide Epi Workgroup

---

- NM SEW's role is to focus on a theory driven model using intervening variables
- NM SEW's role is to train, provide TA, and mentor local community epi groups to effectively monitor changes

# Initial SEW Products

- A state level Epi Profile of substance abuse issues in NM – by county, gender, age, race/ethnicity
- An objective prioritization process to select one area for focus of SPF funding
- County profiles that describe all available data on county substance abuse issues – including use, death, addiction, related criminal activity, enforcement data, conviction and penalty data, number of retail outlets, sales data, etc.

# State Profile Content Areas: Death

- All Causes Death
- Alcohol Related Chronic Disease Death
- Alcohol Related Chronic Liver Disease Death
- Alcohol Related Injury Death
- Alcohol Related Motor Vehicle Crash Death
- Smoking Related Death
- Drug Related Death
- Suicide

# State Profile Content Areas: Consumption

---

- Adult Binge Drinking
  - Youth Binge Drinking
  - Adult Chronic/Heavy Drinking
  - Adult Drinking and Driving
  - Youth Drinking and Driving
  - Illicit Drug Use Youth
  - Adult Cigarette Smoking
  - Youth Cigarette Smoking
-

# State Profile Other Content:

- Alcohol and Drug Hospitalizations
- Depression
- Youth Violence
- Norms related to Alcohol Use
- Unemployment Rate
- High School Dropout Rate
- Liquor License Density
- DWI Arrest
- Alcohol and Drug Treatment Admissions

# State Profile Other Content:

---

- All data were examined by race/ethnicity, gender, age, and county
  - Rates for all substance abuse issues were calculated per 100,000 population, counties were ranked by severity, and highest risk counties were identified in each category for prioritization
  - SEW is now work developing a similar process cities and tribal communities
-

# Framework

---

- A broad set of “intervening variables,” “causal factors” or “risk factors” is utilized to address comprehensive contributors to substance use

# Framework: Intervening Variables

---

- Price
  - Promotion
  - Enforcement
  - Retail Access
  - Social Access
  - Norms
  - Perception of Risk
  - Individual Risk/Protective Factors
-

# Community Survey

---

- A community survey using this organizing framework was developed by the SEW and State Evaluator to assess these intervening variables in each funded county and in comparison communities
  - This survey is being implemented through Motor Vehicle Offices throughout the state, and in alternate locations where additional participants are needed
-

# Community Survey

---

- A community survey using this organizing framework was developed by the SEW and State Evaluator to assess these intervening variables in each funded county and in comparison communities
- This survey is implemented through Motor Vehicle Offices throughout the state and in alternate locations where additional participants are needed

# Indicator Matrix

---

- A matrix using the framework is being utilized to organize all available indicators for the relevant intervening variables – process and outcome measures are identified when available; some are survey items, some are archival data, others are data to be collected locally
  - **EXAMPLE:**
-

# Indicator Matrix **Enforcement:**

Process	Outcome
Judicial / Court Monitoring	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Press releases/info sheets to community</li><li>- Methods to improve information sharing between courts &amp; LEAs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- # / % of DWI cases prosecuted, dismissed, convicted</li><li>- # / % of MIP cases prosecuted, dismissed, convicted</li><li>- # / % of alcohol related offenses prosecuted, dismissed, convicted</li></ul>

# Indicator Matrix **Enforcement:**

Process	Outcome
<b>DWI Enforcement / Saturation Patrols</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- LOA/MOA with LEAs</li><li>- # of targeted areas for enforcement identified</li><li>- Methods to increase coordination among multiple LEAs</li><li>- Increase cross-training of officers between tribal, county and state jurisdictions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- # of checkpoints / patrols per month</li><li>- # of highly visible checkpoints per month</li><li>- # of cars through / contacts</li><li>- # of arrests</li><li>- # of cross trained officers</li></ul>

# Indicator Matrix **Perception of Risk:**

<b>Process</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Increase perception of risk of getting caught/arrested for DWI</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Frequency/targeted location of checkpoints</li><li>- # of media spots in advance of checkpoint</li><li>- # of media spots following checkpoint</li><li>- Obtain weekly/monthly arrest from LEA &amp; publicize</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>CS Q7</b> (How much have you heard/seen about police arresting drunk drivers?)</li><li>- <b>CS Q8</b> (Have you seen a DWI checkpoint in the past 12 months?)</li><li>- <b>CS Q16 &amp; CORE Survey Q8</b> (If you were driving after you had been drinking, how likely is it that you would be stopped by police?)</li></ul>

# Indicator Matrix **Retail Access:**

Process	Outcome
<b>Reduce sales to minors</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Merchant Education regarding the law, properly checking IDs, identifying fake IDs, etc</li><li>- Adoption of employer policies</li><li>- Use of electronic ID verification</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- # / % of licenses with citations for sales to minors</li><li>- # / % of compliance failure</li><li>- # of arrests for selling to minors</li><li>- CORE Survey Q14 (How often have you obtained alcohol in the following ways: used a fake ID, someone gave it to me....)</li></ul>

# Future Projects

---

- Develop a usable database in collaboration with law enforcement so that communities can obtain enforcement data – for sales to minors, for sales to intoxicated, for number of checkpoints, etc.
- Update the NM Epi Profile

# Future Projects

---

- Provide standards, training, and on-going technical assistance to support the development of local epi groups in all communities
- Support collection of local data by the state to use in the framework/matrix

# Contact

---

**Donald Maestas, MSW**

Director of the Office of Substance Abuse  
Prevention

Public Health Division

New Mexico Department of Health

[Donald.Maestas@state.nm.us](mailto:Donald.Maestas@state.nm.us)

---