

NM HEALTH EQUITY PARTNERSHIP



New Mexico Health Equity Partnership –

Generously supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Santa Fe Community Foundation

Health Impact Assessment Report Release

Sandoval County



Cuba, Studying Trail Enhancement Plans-Health Impact Assessment (STEP-HIA):

The Studying Trail Enhancement Plans-Health Impact Assessment was conducted through the University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center in partnership with the Step Into Cuba Alliance. The STEP-HIA looked at how trail access from Cuba to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) is linked to health, quality of life, and community, social, and economic capital for residents living in the community. The overall objective of the HIA was to utilize primary and

secondary data to formulate recommendations about potential trail and trailhead features and locations in relation to the CDT to inform public land planners. The team finalized the report which can be [viewed here](#).

San Miguel County



San Miguel County Detention Center staff show the future site of the Adult Reintegration Center to the HIA and NLAPH Teams, and the UNM BA-to-MD students. From L-R: Pat Leahan, Kelly Gallagher, Paolo Lanucara, Patricia Gallegos, Sahi Podila, Patrick Snedeker, Kylie Disch, Yolanda Cruz, Kelly Moore, Alicia Sikora, Kevin Henry, Sarah Flores, Percyne Gardner, Antonio Padilla

San Miguel County, New Mexico Health Impact Assessment From Incarceration to Reintegration:

San Miguel County, New Mexico Health Impact Assessment From Incarceration to Reintegration: New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) School of Social Work and the NMHU Foundation, Inc. partnered with the San Miguel County Detention Center and its Citizen Advisory Committee, the Las Vegas Peace & Justice Center, the San Miguel County Family and Community Health Council, and other community partners to conduct a HIA on the feasibility of a Reintegration Center and implementation for northeastern New Mexico. The team has completed its HIA report which can be [viewed here](#). In April 2015, the San Miguel County Commission officially passed a resolution in support of the HIA on the reintegration center. More recently, Pat Leahan, Coordinator presented at the NM Public Health Association Annual Conference and National HIA Meeting in Washington, DC.



San Miguel County, NM HIA Project Coordinator Pat Leahan (L) participated in a plenary session at the National HIA Meeting 2015 in Washington, D.C.

Doña Ana County

Doña Ana PLACE MATTERS Completes a Health Impact Assessment on Access to Parks and Multi-Use Trails

On June 1st, Doña Ana PLACE MATTERS completed its first Health Impact Assessment (HIA). The document investigates the health impacts of the proposed Doña Ana County Comprehensive Plan related to parks and multi-use trails. The ultimate goal is to integrate health concerns into all aspects of the Comprehensive Plan.

The team analyzed information collected from a literature review, geospatial analysis, public health data sources, and five focus groups with community members. They found that many factors influence access to parks and multi-use trails, including proximity, facilities and amenities, and perceived safety. In addition, perceived barriers to access can impact usage, and community members' perceptions of these barriers vary.

Access to parks and multi-use trails affects multiple health outcomes, including physical activity, chronic disease, mental well-being, social cohesion, and community connectivity. If the county's Comprehensive Plan and associated Unified Development Code are modified to address access to these facilities more explicitly, county residents will likely experience improved health outcomes.

To this end, the HIA report includes recommendations in four areas: increasing access to existing parks and trails, establishing additional parks and trails, adopting a health in all policies approach, and accessing diverse funding sources. The team presented the HIA recommendations and key findings to policymakers and community members, both orally and in writing. As a result, the county has made substantive changes to the proposed Comprehensive Plan.

Just as important, Doña Ana PLACE MATTERS team members have built relationships with community members and county staff while gaining greater insight into the comprehensive planning process. Many lessons have been learned, including the importance of facilitating ongoing communication between stakeholders, establishing concrete roles for committee members, utilizing webinar technology, and ensuring that the HIA be relevant to policy makers.

The Doña Ana PLACE MATTERS HIA can be [viewed here](#).

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