Health Impact Assessment Report Release

Santa Fe County

EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT AND RISK OF DISPLACEMENT: Profiles of Four Santa Fe Neighborhoods

Chainbreaker is proud to announce the release of a Health Impact Assessment Report called “Equitable Development and Risk of Displacement.” The report was a collaborative project between Chainbreaker, New Mexico Health Equity Partnership (NMHEP) and Human Impact Partners. It focuses on four Santa Fe neighborhoods (Hopewell/Mann, Airport Rd. Corridor, Canyon Rd. and Downtown) to identify the various indicators of gentrification and displacement and the potential implications for the long term individual and community health of residents.

The report found that residents in each of the four neighborhoods experience life in Santa Fe very differently. Residents of Hopewell/Mann face the greatest risk of being gentrified out of their neighborhoods, while residents of Airport Rd. Corridor lack key resource investments to support health, well-being and sustainability. Both neighborhoods are mostly composed of Latino residents and a large percentage of youth.

In contrast, Canyon Rd. and Downtown residents face very little risk of displacement and enjoy some of the highest incomes and most valuable real estate in the city. Residents of these
neighborhoods tend to be white and the median age is 70 in the Downtown area and 62 in Canyon Rd.

The report underscores what many Santa Feans already know but that few like to talk about publicly: Santa Fe is becoming increasingly segregated and not all of our residents enjoy the same quality of life.

The data and findings of this report will be invaluable as we continue organizing for Economic and Environmental Justice, Civil Rights and a more equitable Santa Fe. We appreciate all the hard work of our partners and all the community members that made this report possible.

The Chainbreaker HIA can be viewed here.

Submitted by Tomás Rivera, Chainbreaker Collective HIA Project Coordinator

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Taos County
Taos Community Foundation, with the generous support of the NMHEP and the participation of numerous community stakeholders, conducted a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for the greater Taos County.

Using the tools and framework offered by the HIA, we investigated the potential results of a change from the current, conventional funding policy at the level of the town and county to a strategic, collective impact-informed funding framework for local community services and public health programming.

Five conditions are essential to a collective impact approach. In it, organizations work together to tackle complex social problems. Participating organizations:

- agree to a common agenda;
- agree to track progress in the same way, which allows for continuous improvement;
• do what each does best, while identifying ways to work together;
• have consistent, continuous communication; and
• share a supportive infrastructure, with skilled and dedicated resources to support the ongoing effort.

These five conditions—a common agenda, shared measurement, mutually-reinforcing activities, continuous communication, and backbone support—have allowed some communities to leverage far more collective impact against challenging social issues than any single entity could accomplish alone.

We have explored the potential benefits of a collective-impact framework for funding health and social services in our community, and found that a funding framework that adopts these conditions would likely have a significant positive effect on the health of the community in comparison to the conventional, isolated-impact funding framework currently in place.

The HIA provides rigorous support for a positive change in our community, and we're grateful to the NMHEP for the opportunity and shared expertise.

The Taos Community Foundation HIA can be viewed here.

Submitted by Summer Wood, i2i Institute/Taos Community HIA Project Coordinator

Torrance County
Lobos CO2 Pipeline - Health Impact Assessment

In October 2013, the Bureau of Land Management published its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Kinder Morgan Lobos CO2 pipeline; a project that would mine carbon dioxide (CO2) in Arizona and transport it through New Mexico to use in petroleum enhanced recovery efforts in the Permian Basin.

Ours is a David and Goliath tale that pits the 3rd largest global energy corporation and a federal agency against community members from very traditional Hispanic Land Grant families steeped in a culture and way of life that is inextricably linked to the land, the water, the mountains and forests rich with sacred sites, as well as ranching families, and retirees that migrated to the area attracted by the availability of large tracts of unspoiled, affordable land, and an active arts community. Together they formed a citizens group “Resistiendo” and reached out to the larger community for support. In January 2014, The Partnership for a Healthy Torrance Community and the New Mexico Department of Health - Health Promotions Specialist responded to the call that initiated the health impact assessment process. Human Impact Partners provided financial support, expertise and leadership. The NMHEP contributed mentorship, technical assistance and the opportunity to network with other HIA projects and practitioners around the state. With many residents of Torrance County expressing concern about the potential effects of this project, the 5 central categories of research decided upon by the community were land use, economic impacts to individuals and the county, impacts to history and culture, impacts to water quality and quantity, and health and safety.
In January 2015 Kinder Morgan withdrew its proposal because of falling energy prices.

The HIA process gave voice to a marginalized population, purpose and direction to a community health improvement council, and a sense of community empowerment that comes from engagement in collective action around a common goal. It was a transformative process at many levels, producing a document that will serve the community in the years ahead.

The Lobos CO2 Pipeline HIA can be viewed here.

Submitted by Linda Fiilippi, LOBOS CO2 HIA Project Coordinator