



NMSU's Southwest Institute of Health Disparities Research

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Southwest Institute of Health Disparities Research

- 2007: the NM legislature approved funds to construct space for the SWIHDR at NMSU's College of Health and Social Services (CHSS)
- 2012: this wing was completed
- 2013, a new director was hired



Mission of the SWIHDR

- To promote research, training, outreach, and other public health actions that reduce health disparities in US-Mexico border communities



US-Mexico Border Region





What is a health disparity?

- A difference in health between groups that is linked to social or economic disadvantage
- These groups are defined by race or ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, gender, mental health, sexual orientation, or geographic location



Border region disadvantages

If a state, the border would rank:

- 51st in
 - Per capita income¹
 - High school completion²
 - EPA grants to states
 - Access to health care
 - Health care professionals per capita
- 1st in
 - Unemployment³
 - Numbers of school children living in poverty
 - Numbers of children who are uninsured

Source: DL Soden at http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1027&context=iped_techrep

¹ 39th with San Diego; ² 50th with San Diego; ³ 5th with San Diego



Health disparities in the region

- *Infectious disease*: TB, hepatitis A, STDs
- *Chronic disease*: Diabetes; obesity; cancers of the colon, breast, cervix; asthma; dental disease; heart disease
- *Injuries*: Motor vehicle crashes, drugs, falls
- *Violence and mental health*: Intimate partner violence (IPV), depression, suicide
- *Maternal and child health*: Teen birth, preterm birth
- *Health services*: Vaccine coverage, prenatal care



Health disparities are complex

- Resolving health disparities requires understanding the root causes and how they interact to influence health:
 - Biology and genetics
 - Individual behavior
 - Social environment
 - Physical environment
 - Health Services
- Novel and interdisciplinary approaches are needed



Role of NMSU

- We know the region
- We have expertise in many disciplines that relate to health
- We have established partnerships with other organizations in the region
 - Academic institutions
 - Foundations
 - Government agencies
 - Health care providers



SWIHDR goals

- Create a program of excellence to address health disparities along the US/Mexico border
- Build capacity for researchers who focus on health disparities affecting socioeconomic, racial/ethnic and other subgroups in the US/Mexico border communities
- Provide health disparity research training to undergraduate and graduate students
- Use community partnerships to disseminate effective interventions to eliminate disparities



Objectives of this conference

- To increase awareness of the health disparities and challenges facing border populations
- To form interdisciplinary teams of new and experienced research faculty and students
- To identify research questions and start to plan research proposals
- To explore funding opportunities for research questions through active funding opportunity announcements and other funding mechanisms