ASSESSING THE INFLUENCE OF RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION ON HEALTH OUTCOMES AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD LEVEL

BERNALILLO COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL
Problem - Background

- Neighborhoods characterized by racial and economic segregation are not only exposed to more environmental hazards, but also have access to fewer opportunities such as quality schools, well-paying jobs, and green spaces.

- Residents living in highly segregated and "opportunity poor" neighborhoods experience greater stress levels which contribute to physiological vulnerability and adverse health outcomes.
A Framework for Health Equity

Socio-Ecological

UPSTREAM

Discriminatory Beliefs (ISMS)
- Race
- Class
- Gender
- Immigration status
- National origin
- Sexual orientation
- Disability

Institutional Power
- Corporations & other businesses
- Government agencies
- Schools

Social Inequities
- Neighborhood conditions
  - Social
  - Physical
- Residential segregation
- Workplace conditions

MEDICAL MODEL

DOWNSTREAM

Risk Factors & Behaviors
- Smoking
- Nutrition
- Physical activity
- Violence
- Chronic Stress

Disease & Injury
- Infectious disease
- Chronic disease
- Injury (intentional & unintentional)

Mortality
- Infant mortality
- Life expectancy

HEALTH STATUS

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Adapted by ACPHD from the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative, Summer 2008
Community Health Equity Report

- **Purpose**
  - To assess the associations between residential segregation by income and race/ethnicity, stress and health outcomes at the neighborhood level for Bernalillo County.
  - To provide evidence to various County boards that disparities exist at the sub-count level.
CHER – Risk Factors and Health Outcomes

- **Risk Factors**
  - Race/Ethnicity and Foreign Born
  - Persistent Poverty
  - Community Risk Index (standardized test scores, violent crime rate, foreclosure rate, unemployment rate, vacant homes, homes with no auto, and overcrowded households)
  - Environmental Risk Index (landfills, RCRA sites, Superfund sites, toxic release inventory sites)

- **Health Outcomes**
  - Life Expectancy
  - All Cause Death Rate
  - Low Birth Rate
  - Infant Mortality Rate
Community Risk by Unemployed, Foreign-born, Education and Poverty *Bernalillo County, New Mexico*
Environmental Risk by Race/Ethnicity, Poverty, and Foreign-born

Bernalillo County, New Mexico

[Bar chart showing environmental risk distribution by race/ethnicity, poverty level, and foreign-born status.]
Environmental Hazards Density and Life Expectancy

Values for hazards density: highest = 54.65 - 126.15; higher = 27.43 - 54.64; high = 13.52 - 27.42.
Values for life expectancy: lowest = 66 - 70; lower = 71 - 75; low = 77 - 79.
Highlights

- 22-year difference in life expectancy across census tracts.
- Higher concentrations of environmental health hazards in non-white and low-income census tracts.
- A life expectancy that is an average of 5.2 years shorter in census tracts with the greatest concentration of environmental hazards.
History of San Jose

- South Valley Superfund Site
  - Responsible parties: GE, Chevron, among others
  - Contamination of acequia and ground water by benzene and other contaminants
  - Private and public wells closed down
  - Acequia closed down – because produce was irrigated by the acequia
  - San Jose Church and priest very involved in bringing corporations to justice and for paying damages
Impacted Communities and Bernalillo County

Demographics & Socio-Economic Status

- Hispanic
- Non-Hispanic White
- Under 18 Years of Age
- Unemployment Rate
- Spanish Spoken at Home (> age 5)
- Population under 150% Poverty Level

- San Jose
- Mountain View
- Bernalillo County
SAN JOSE
NOT $ FOR
SALE

ST J MEMORIAL
7.4.09
Hospitalizations for Asthma
Children 5 to 14
Mean Annual Rates, 1996-2000
Source: NM Health Policy Commission

From Tom Scharmen NMDOH
AT&SF Rail
Distribution of Estimated Cancer Risks in US Metropolitan Areas, per Million

- **All Sources**: 632 (Including Diesel), 116 (Excluding Diesel)
- **Background**: 23 (Including Diesel), 23 (Excluding Diesel)
- **Major Sources**: 8 (Including Diesel), 8 (Excluding Diesel)
- **Area Sources**: 43 (Including Diesel), 43 (Excluding Diesel)
- **Mobile Sources**: 558 (Including Diesel), 41 (Excluding Diesel)
- **On-road Mobile Sources**: 179 (Including Diesel), 25 (Excluding Diesel)
- **Nonroad Mobile Sources**: 379 (Including Diesel), 16 (Excluding Diesel)
Rate of Death from All Causes in Hispanics
Bernalillo County, 1990-2005

- All Ages: 1024.9
- <65 Years: 828.7
- 65+ Years: 5333.8

Age-adjusted death rate per 100,000

- Mountainview-San Jose Area
- Rest of County
Historically,

- Minorities had little voice in decisions that impacted them because of the times

Today,

- Minorities are no longer afraid to speak out because they have become more aware of protective policies gained through things like the Civil Rights movement
Next Steps

- Legislation that considers the cumulative impacts of environmental exposures on a community’s health (CERA)
- Requirement to consider the health impacts of policies, plans or projects early on in the decision-making process (HIAP)
- Development of an evidence base through environmental monitoring and health assessment
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