

Reducing and Eliminating Health Disparities among Native Americans and Hispanics in Arizona

CENTER FOR HEALTH EQUALITY Project EXPORT Hardrock



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OF ARIZONA.
Mel and Enid Zuckerman
College of Public Health



A Collaborative Approach to Reducing Health Disparities

APHA Annual Meeting and Exposition

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Learning Objectives

1. Recognize factors for community mobilization, community voice, community ownership and community change.
2. The community in the driver's seat-- Reversal of traditional roles in community university partnerships.
3. Identify how to develop a model for partnerships.
4. Identify how to build upon and utilize community wisdom.
5. Identify a model that creates multilevel social change.



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Introduction

In 2003 the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health was awarded a Center of **Ex**cellence in **P**artnership for Community **O**utreach, **R**esearch on Health Disparities and **T**raining Grant (Project **EXPORT**).



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Background

The goal of Project EXPORT is to reduce health disparities among Hispanics and Native Americans in the areas of diabetes and substance abuse.



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Background continued

- **Developed selection criteria for target communities:**
 - great health disparities
 - resources to contribute (i.e., human resources, facilities, other grant funding)
 - shows community readiness
 - interested community leadership
 - interest in building a university-community relationship



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Our Partner Communities

Hardrock, Arizona

- Remote community located on the Navajo Reservation in Northern Arizona
- Strong community leadership and focus
- Community sought partnership with University of Arizona



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Our Partner Communities

Tucson, Arizona

- Sunnyside/Elvira Neighborhoods most active in southwest side of Tucson
- Strong community activists
- Activists catalysts for change in community



Inter-University Partnership

- **Unique UA Collaboration:**
 - MEZCOPH
 - Mexican American Studies and Research Center
 - Native American Research and Training Center
 - UA Graduate College



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Community/Campus Partnership

- The inter-university partnership provides technical assistance to partner communities
 - Coordination of retreats
 - Grant writing assistance
- The communities develop research, policy, and intervention projects
 - community-specific and community driven



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Community Voice and Community Ownership

How our communities convey their voice

- Digital stories
- Community walks against diabetes and substance abuse
- Physical activity and health education classes
- Community gardens
- Community coalition building
- Policy changes

Community Ownership



CREATING SOCIAL CHANGE

- Health disparities are rooted in the social structure
- Change has occurred via Community Based Participatory Research
- Address health disparities via :
 - Individual level
 - Neighborhood level
 - Community level



PAGE A-12

THURSDAY, JULY 07, 2005

Making a statement



Residents of Hardrock, Pinon, White Valley and surrounding areas joined on a 12-mile march against the activities of bootleggers and drug and substance abuse July 1. In this view, the walkers begin to string out as they walk under a hot sun. (Times photo - Paul Natonabah)

Photo Courtesy of: The Navajo Times



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Thank you!



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