
SANTA FE COUNTY



ACCOUNTABLE HEALTH COMMUNITY

We are building a system that helps residents navigate community services and offers providers access to data and information to better serve residents, improve health and reduce health care costs.



Access to Health Insurance for All = Healthier Communities for All

Estevan is a “Dreamer” who came to the United States with his parents when he was a child. He is an undocumented immigrant who has assimilated into American culture, has been educated by the US school system and would qualify for a pathway to legal immigration status under the Dream Act if it had become law. He attends high school, works at a part time job, plays football and has untreated diabetes. Estevan does not have health insurance. He is afraid of providing information that would identify his parents, and fear of his parent’s deportation is greater than the fear of his diabetes going unmanaged.

Social determinants of health influence the health of an individual and the health of a community. The Accountable Health Community addresses the need for stable and safe housing and utilities, reliable transportation and access to nutritious food for residents by screening for and targeting navigation to tackle the social determinants of health including access to health insurance, which ultimately drives down costs for all.

Without health insurance, health access decreases and the likelihood for reaching optimal health outcomes diminishes. Receiving health care when it’s needed, from providers who are trusted and can communicate with the patient and provide the right care at the right time creates the optimal environment for achieving the best health outcomes.

*23% of adults and
10% of children do
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insurance in
Santa Fe County.*

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
County Health Rankings
Data source: US Census Bureau, 2014

According to Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s County Health Rankings, **20% of Santa Fe County residents are uninsured**. 23% of adults and 10% of children do not have health insurance. “Health insurance coverage is an important determinant of access to health care. Uninsured children and non-elderly adults are substantially less likely to have a usual source of health care or a recent health care visit than their insured counterparts.” (National Center for Health Statistics)

Without insurance, people tend to avoid or delay needed health care or use the Emergency Department for non-emergencies. Access to health care impacts physical, social and mental health

status, prevention of disease and disability, detection and treatment of health conditions, quality of life, preventable death and life expectancy. Access to health insurance and access to health care make for a healthier community, and Santa Fe County is closely following national and state policy changes that may affect our community, with an eye to maintaining and improving current levels of access.

The first priority goal of Santa Fe County's Health Action Plan is to increase the percentage of residents enrolled in health insurance. The vision of the Accountable Health Community (AHC) is: *By 2020 all Santa Fe County residents regardless of income have access to high quality health care and are linked to the resources they need for health and well-being.*

In an effort to reach the Health Action Plan goal and to maintain the vision of the AHC, Santa Fe County Community Services Department has contracted with the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center and also with Health Action New Mexico to provide outreach, education and enrollment assistance to uninsured residents of Santa Fe County.

New Mexico Immigrant Law Center works on select cases where residents, such as women and children who are victims of domestic violence, qualify for humanitarian paths to public benefits like health insurance.

Health Action New Mexico (HANM) believes all people in New Mexico should have access to the resources that allow them to lead a healthy life, regardless of geographic location, language, ethnicity, race, citizenship, age, disability, sex and sexual orientation, gender and gender identity, religion. The team at HANM is founded on the belief that health care is a right and are committed to the goal that all people of New Mexico have universal access to health care.

These two partnerships provide training to Santa Fe County Health Care Assistance staff to screen, refer, and also conduct outreach and enroll difficult-to-enroll populations such as the elderly and low-income Hispanics who do not qualify for Medicaid. In addition, HANM will connect Santa Fe County residents to health care coverage who are eligible for Medicaid or the Health Insurance Exchange, or, like NM Immigrant Law Center, find other means to obtain health care for those who may not qualify for current programs, particularly special populations who are immigrants with humanitarian status, "Dreamer" children who may be eligible under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and other eligible monolingual Spanish speaking residents. HANM will also lead health literacy and discussion circles with those interested in learning about health care policies and changes that are taking place at the federal and state levels.

Providing outreach, educating and enrolling children, teens like Estevan, and adults in a health care insurance plan is the goal. Increasing enrollment and reducing the 20% of the population of uninsured county residents will help to improve the health of our residents and of our county. Santa Fe County Community Services Department is committed to making access to health insurance and health care a reality for all residents.

For more information on the development of the Accountable Health Community please contact:

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