

Highlights from the collaboration between the public health department and two local universities to prevent chronic diseases through screenings and services for vulnerable populations in El Paso, Texas

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INTRODUCTION

- 35% of residents in El Paso, Texas are uninsured.
- Some low-income families do not receive preventive screenings or vaccines.
- The Medicaid Waiver program from the City of El Paso Department of Public Health partnered with local universities.
- The program implemented research projects to connect Medicaid, low-income, and uninsured residents to healthcare resources

METHODS

- From 2015-2019 the collaboration project conducted 18,142 socio-demographic (REAL) interview surveys and offered preventive screenings.
- Services included blood pressure checks, lipid and cholesterol checks, BMI and body composition measures.
- Participants were recruited through faith-based organizations, the Consulate General of Mexico, local health fairs and community events.

Health department partnership with local universities successfully provides preventive health services for a border population

RESULTS

- The project connected participants with a variety of preventive health resources in the community.
- Over 18,000 participants were screened at least once by a service partner.
- More than 1,545 participants received cancer screenings
- Over 15,240 vaccines were administered

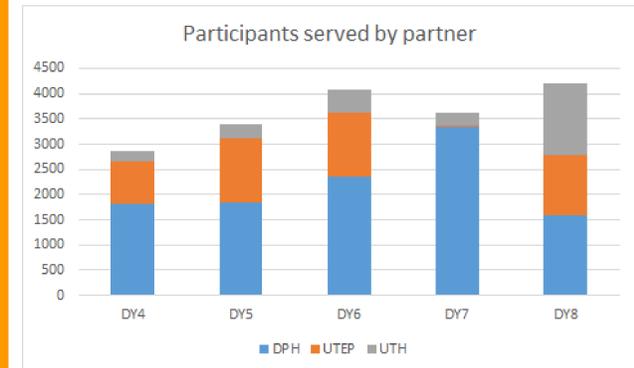


Figure 1: Number of participants served by implementation year (DY4 – DY8) by partner organization

LESSONS LEARNED

- The synergy between projects has allowed a more balanced distribution of workload and service over time.
- Projects that connect uninsured or low-income populations to free healthcare services should include plan for barriers to services not offered on-site.
- Follow-up, transportation services, extended service hours should be considered for future approaches.



Figures 2 - 4: University and Health Department teams offering screenings



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