New Mexico

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Funding:

- Not Currently funded by HRSA

Key Data Sources:

- Death Data from the NM Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics of the Epidemiology and Response Division, New Mexico Department of Health
- Hospital Inpatient Discharge Data from the NM Morbidity Program of the Epidemiology and Response Division, New Mexico Department of Health
- Emergency Department Data from the Environmental Health Epidemiology Bureau of the Epidemiology and Response Division, New Mexico Department of Health
Burden:

- Annualized crude rate for New Mexico, ages 0-24: **13.37**
- The leading causes of TBI-related deaths in NM are firearm-related injury, fall-related injury and motor vehicle traffic-related injury.
- Firearm-related injury is the leading cause of TBI-related death among 0 to 20 year olds in NM followed by motor vehicle traffic-related injury.
- Fall-related injury, motor vehicle traffic-related injury and struck by or against an object are the leading causes of TBI-related hospitalization in NM.
- Motor vehicle traffic-related injury is the leading cause of TBI-related hospitalization among 0 to 20 year olds in NM followed by fall-related injury.
- Fall-related injury is the leading cause of TBI-related visit to the emergency department among all ages combined and among 0 to 20 year olds, followed by struck by or against an object and motor vehicle traffic-related injury.
Relevant State Laws:
- Sports-Related Concussion law for children in middle and high school organized sports
- Children’s Helmet Safety Act: Requires a helmet use for riders under age 18 when using bicycles, tricycles, skateboards, scooters or skates on public property
- Requires helmet use for riders under age 18 when using All Terrain Vehicles and motorcycles on public property
- Has an ongoing appropriation for long-term community based Medicaid waiver services for people with TBI and ABI
- The Brain Injury Services Fund (funded with $5 from moving traffic violations) that provides short term services to people with TBI
- The Brain Injury Advisory Council was established in law in 1995.

Program and Activities:
The NM Brain Injury Advisory Council is working on a helmet education and distribution program which targets children and head start programs in various locations around the state. The council is currently developing two pilot programs targeted to older kids to wear helmets on the slopes and while skateboarding.

The NM Brain Injury Advisory Council is requesting a special appropriation from the legislature to fund statewide concussion needs assessment targeting youth sports injuries and veterans. Also they requested expansion of the brain injury service fund to include service eligibility for people with acquired brain injury and $2 million appropriation to support expanded service delivery.

The Safe Kids New Mexico coordinator with The Epidemiology and Response Division of the NM Department of Health collaborates with the NM Brain Injury Advisory Council on improving car seat, booster seat and recreational vehicle helmet use law enforcement. The coordinator also collaborates with hospitals, local government agencies and nonprofits to provide free helmet distribution programs and collaborates with coaches and trainers to improve TBI prevention and intervention.

The Epidemiology and Response Division also has an adult falls prevention coordinator who works with partners in New Mexico to provide Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance instructor training. Instructors teach tai chi to seniors to improve balance, which can help to prevent TBI.

The New Mexico Brain Injury Alliance has a contract with Children, Youth and Families Department to provide information, support, advocacy, and education for families with children with behavioral health and/or brain injury challenges.

Goals:
At least three new prevention activities established and coordinated between TBI partners.