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Environmental Health / Home Safety Education Project: A recipe for success

*Proyecto de Salud Ambiental y
Seguridad en el Hogar*

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Ingredients for a successful environmental health program:

- Community members interested in making a safe family home
- Environmental health trained promotoras
- Health information & resources



Key players:



- **Creators:**

- Southern Area Health Education Center (SoAHEC) staff @ NMSU

- **Funders/supporters:**

- NM Dep't of Health, Office of Border Health
- La Clinica de Familia Promotora Program
- Paso del Norte Health Foundation
- US/MX Border Health Commission

The need for the project -

- 35 colonias in Dona Ana County, NM
~ 26% of the county lives in a colonia
- Environmental hazards are common
- Many hazards are minor & can be easily corrected

Promotora preparation:



- Environmental health classes
- Computer based programs (SPSS)
- Survey design & administration

Spreading community awareness:

- Promotoras held community presentations
- Provided overview of environmental issues
- Explained the project



Home Safety Assessment:



- Promotora conducts first home visit
 - Completes environmental survey
 - Provides environmental health education
 - Observes home surroundings
- Second visit
 - Follow-up on recommendations
- Pre-post-tests



Topics addressed at home visit:

Electrical safety Gas safety
Fire and emergencies
Hazardous household products
Outside safety hazards Food safety
Pesticides
Asthma and allergies Lead



Incentives

- Smoke detector
- Fire extinguisher
- Refrigerator thermometer
- Electrical safety caps
- Cabinet safety latches
- Educational materials



The Environmental Health/Home Safety Education Project

Tool Kit



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To request a copy: sforster@nmsu.edu



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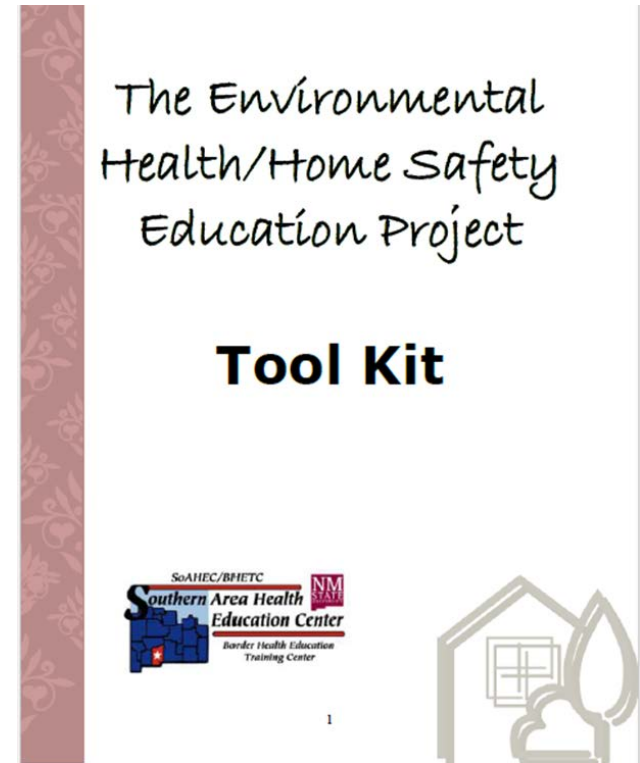
Project's effectiveness:

Clients had increased knowledge and awareness of:

- fire safety
- food safety
- pesticide safety

Environmental Health / Home Safety Education Project

- Replicable
- Flexible
- Attractive to funders



Environmental Health / Home Safety Education Project

“Border Models of Excellence”



U.S./Mexico Border Health Commission
2003



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References

- Forster-Cox, S, Mangadu, T, Jacquez, B, & Fullerton, L: “The Environmental Health/Home Safety Education Project: A Successful and Practical US/Mexico Border Initiative.” *Health Promotion Practice*, 11(3), 325-331, 2010.
- Forster-Cox, S, Mangadu, T, Jacquez, B, & Corona, A: “The effectiveness of the Promotora (Community Health Worker) model of intervention for improving pesticide safety in US/Mexico border homes.” *Californian Journal of Health Promotion*, 5(1), 62-75, 2007.



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