

# **New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils**

***Partnering for Health Equity***

**Con Alma Health Foundation  
Health Care Reform Convening  
Las Cruces, New Mexico  
January 11, 2013**

# New Mexico's Health Councils

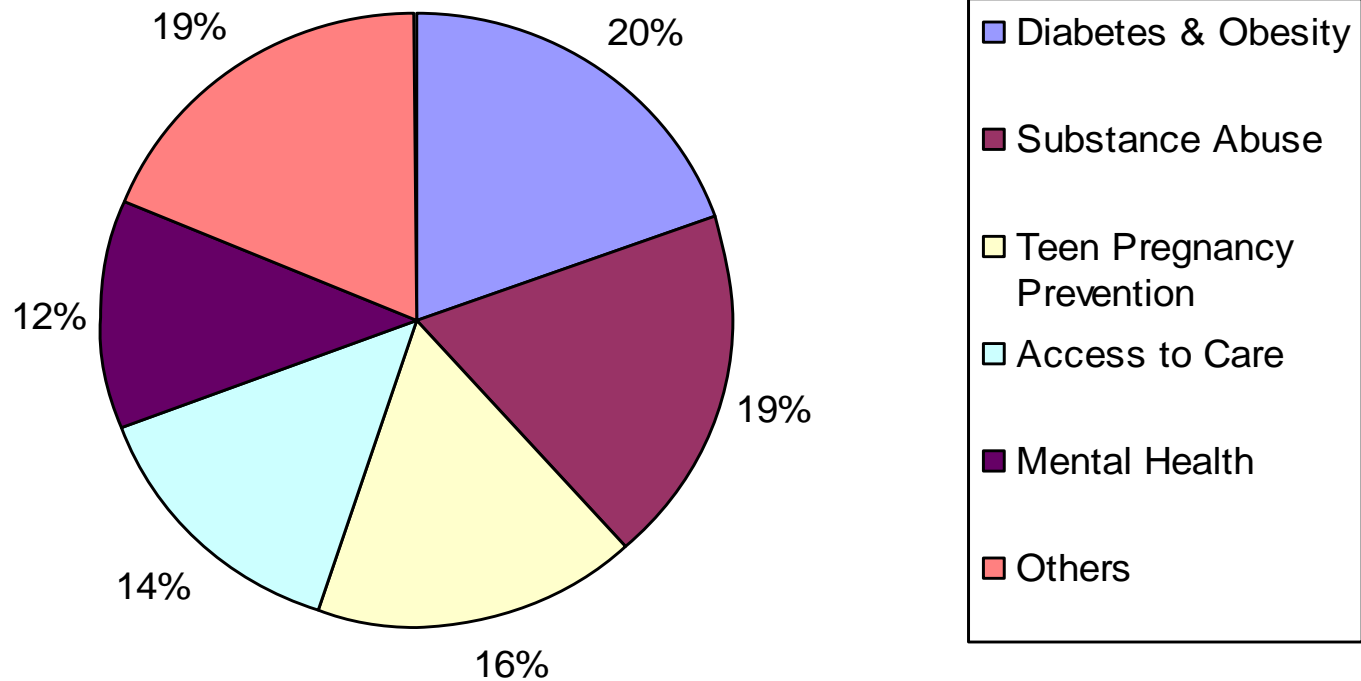
- 20 years of community-based health planning and assessment
- Created under 1992 Maternal and Child health plan Act
- State-funded until 2012
- 33 counties, 5 tribal communities
- Essential part of NM public health system

# **Health Councils are unique to New Mexico:**

- **Non-categorical health coalitions**
- **Community health assessments**
- **Long-range health plans**
- **Community action: Locally-determined health priorities**

# Health Council Priorities, 2010:

## Evidence-based Interventions



# Systems-level Outcomes:

- Change policies
- Build networks and coalitions
- Develop joint programs
- Leverage funding
- Coordinate programs and services  
(reduce duplication, gaps in services)

# Current Status of Health Councils (2011):

- 80% active (30 councils)
- 80% of those had some funding
- 22 had a paid coordinator
- 8 had a volunteer coordinator

# NM Alliance of Health Councils

- ❑ Originally MCH Council Association
- ❑ September 2010 Convening:
  - *Need for unified voice*
  - *Advocate for health council funding*
  - *Need to build capacity, strengthen communities*
- ❑ Alliance created, early 2011
- ❑ Part-time coordinator (CAHF grant)

# Alliance Structure

- **General membership:**  
*Health councils, coalitions, organizations, individuals, etc.*
- **Steering Committee:**  
*Health Councils (voting members)*
- **Executive Committee:**  
*7-9 elected members (plus ex-officio)*
- **Committees:**  
*Policy, Resource Development, Capacity-building*



# Current Alliance Activities

- Restoration of Funding
- Strengthening of the health councils
- Strengthening of the Alliance
- Work with Health Equity Partnership

# Evolution of Health Councils

- *From programs & services to systems-level changes*
- *Health disparities, social & economic determinants*
- *Health care reform: Community Transformation, outreach*
- *Health equity: Commitment to the absence of systematic health disparities*