

The New Mexico Border Health Initiative (NMBHI) is a five year research and demonstration project funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration that is currently in fiscal year three.



Spring, 2003

Given the lack of access to medical care in our region, border residents infected with HIV are often diagnosed late, resulting in delayed entry into primary care and treatment regimens that are not as effective. In light of this and in order to enhance HIV primary care in general, the goals of the Camino de Vida Center for HIV Services (CdV) NMBHI are to:

1. Establish and maintain a Health Outreach Worker Program to increase the identification, testing, and enrollment of men who have sex with men (MSM), intravenous drug users (IDU), and women at risk for HIV infection into HIV services in southern New Mexico;
2. Increase access to HIV primary care and social services for clients living with HIV/AIDS in southern New Mexico through case management;
3. Support HIV primary care for clients living with HIV/AIDS in southern New Mexico through client education;
4. Enhance the quality of HIV primary care for clients living with HIV/AIDS in southern New Mexico through education and training of providers.

Many lessons have been learned since the start of the project in August, 2000. In relationship to outreach, it has become clear that the role of the Health Outreach Workers (HOWs) is especially complex. Not only do they need to be able to effectively conduct HIV pre/post test counseling and data collection in the field, they also need to be aware of the epidemic and its potential to affect their communities. Being bilingual and bicultural are also important skills in working with the border population.

In terms of increasing access to primary care and social services for clients (Goal 2), CdV is continually striving to maintain services that are client centered. Meeting the needs of bilingual/bicultural clients is an important part of this.

Another key component of the NMBHI is client education which is provided by the case managers and the prevention case manager (Goal 3). Future plans include training for clients about how to maximize each visit with their primary care physicians.

In relationship to Goal 4, a number of provider trainings were conducted in the last year in collaboration with the New Mexico AIDS Education and Training Center (NMAETC) and the Southern Area Health Education Center (SoAHEC). These trainings were made available to providers at Ben Archer Health Center and La Clinica de Familia, both of the community health centers in southern NM, and to other area providers who see CdV clients.

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HIGHLIGHTS RELATED TO GOAL 4

Since October, 2001 the NMBHI has sponsored 7 provider trainings with approximately 160 physicians, nurses, mid-level practitioners, social workers, clerical staff, and CdV personnel in attendance. Brief evaluations were completed by 107 of the participants who provide care to patients.

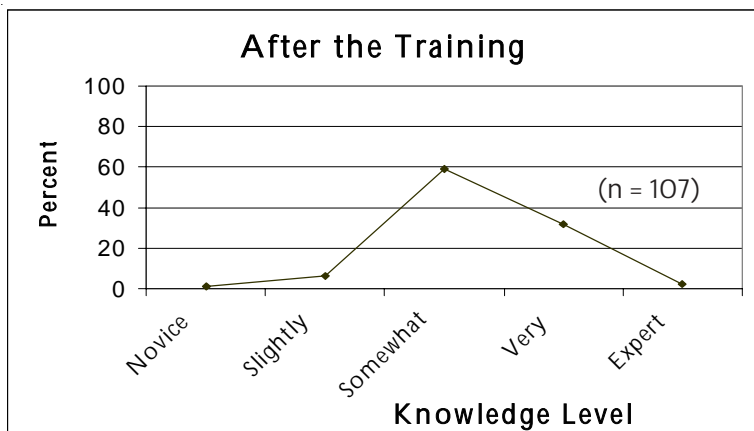
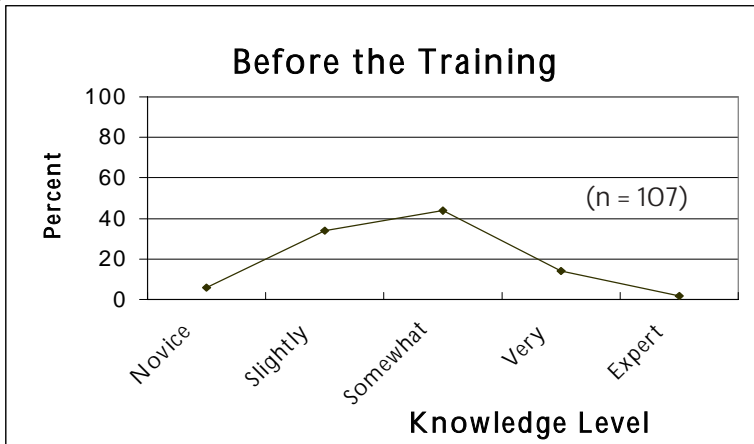
Several key research questions are guiding the evaluation of the NMBHI. One such questions is whether the health care providers who attended the trainings plan to utilize the information to change their approach in delivering HIV/AIDS care in the future.

Usefulness of Information

(n = 107)	Yes	No	N/A
Will use information to change approach	88 (82%)	4 (4%)	15 (14%)

Another important question is whether the HIV education and training has increased participant knowledge and skills regarding HIV care.

Knowledge and Skills Regarding HIV Care



In January of 2003, the New Mexico AIDS Education and Training Center facilitated two local focus groups to document the training needs of health care providers and other health agency representatives. Based on the feedback, future trainings will be designed to accommodate two kinds of providers: those who directly care for infected individuals and those who do not, but who may be seeing persons at risk.

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