



NEW MEXICO IMMUNIZATION  
PROGRAM  
SHOT TEAM PROJECT

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2004 REPORT (PHASE 1)

# New Mexico Shot Team Project

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## BACKGROUND

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At the time of the creation of this project in the summer of 2003, New Mexico ranked last among the states on immunization rates among children ages 19-35 months. (National Immunization Survey, Q32001-Q2, 2002) at 61% coverage for the 4:3:1:3:3 series.. The Shots on Time Project was developed by the NM Immunization Program to provide on-site technical assistance for immunization providers across the state by contracting with seven specially trained nurses. This project was generously funded by Governor Richardson specifically to improve immunization coverage among young children in New Mexico.

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## GOALS

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The goals of the program are two-fold:

- 1) Identify children ages 1-3 years who are not up-to-date on their immunizations and recall them for vaccination.
  - 2) Improve immunization delivery systems in individual provider offices, by implementing the Standards for Pediatric Immunization.
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## SHOT TEAM RECRUITMENT

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- Nurses were recruited via newspaper advertisement and hired as contract employees. Two nurses were hired for District 1, 2 for District 2, 2 for District 3. We were unable to recruit a nurse for District 4. Salary was \$33/hour for professional time and \$7/ child (aged 1-3) brought up to date. The total encumbered by these contracts was \$148,931.00.
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## PROVIDER RECRUITMENT

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- Providers volunteered for the project after receiving a letter of invitation and were accepted into the program based on number of underimmunized children, willingness to implement best immunization practices, and the availability of nurses for their area.
  - Providers signed a Memorandum of Understanding before nurses were assigned to the practice. (Attachment A).
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## EVAULATION

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- Shot Nurses report verbally on activity during bi-weekly conference calls
- Shot Nurses turn in detailed assessments sheets and exit reports to the project coordinator
- Written evaluations are sent to the practices when the Shot Nurse has turned in the exit report.
- Practice coverage levels are compared before and after the intervention.

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## RESULTS

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**Results were categorized according to 1) Practice-based changes, 2) Coverage changes, 3) Written Evaluations from the practices, 4) Expenditures:**

- 1) Twenty-four practices utilized a Shot Nurse. Of these 24 practices, 20 (83%) implemented at least one system-based change. In all, 54 changes were implemented. The most common changes were:

SYSTEM CHANGES IMPLEMENTED (during intervention)

11	patient recall systems	10	Patient reminder systems implemented
5	Chart Reminders	1	Done By One implemented
5	Immunization Champions	1	Standing orders implemented
4	Consolidation of Records	1	Request shot records at every visit (from parents)
3	Records reviewed at each visit	2	Review shot records at acute visits
2	WCC scheduled at proper intervals for vaccination	1	Vaccine inventory improved
2	Fee waived	1	Simultaneous/vaccination improved
2	Shot records monitored at acute visits	2	Administration fee waived
1	MOGEs documented		

- 2) **14 of the 24 practices had a pre (2003) and post CASA assessment. 13 of 14 practices showed an improvement. Average 4:3:1:3:3 improvement for these 14 practices was 23.0% (+7.7) compared to 12.0% (+3.2%) for all CASAs.**
- 3) **23 practices returned written evaluations.** All indicated positive responses to questions regarding the usefulness of the project and agreed they would recommend the project to others. A sample of provider written comments:
- “Our system implemented the immunization reminder post cards at all five of our clinics – parents are loving the reminders”. “We have started a reminder post card system that has been very effective in getting kids to stay on time. The visits from the team are very helpful. I also appreciate the presentation at our nurse retreat”.

- “I learned so much about vaccines – especially reminder-recall – which I didn’t think would be easy to implement”. ... (the nurse) was very helpful and resourceful... on a more personal level, she has been such a great person to talk to when I have questions.”
  - “We implemented a post card recall system which we had considered but rejected before”.
  - “(The project) brought the issue to the forefront in everyone’s mind”.
  - “(The Shot Nurse) is an excellent nurse and resource”.
  - “The nurses are very helpful and mindful of the practice, making useful suggestions revolving around a community health practice and transient population”.
- 4) **The project paid invoices totaling \$80,787 during the first phase** (2004) of the Shot Team project (54% of encumbered funds were actually spent.).

5)

**NEXT STEPS**

THE PROJECT WILL BE REPEATED IN 2005. Three of the 2004 Shot Nurses renewed their contracts. One was hired by public health as Immunization Coordinator for District 1. Five new contracts were implemented for a total of eight Shot Nurses for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the project.

SHOT NURSES	DISTRICT	BUDGET
Rosie Clifford	1	22,931
Laura Grubb	1	29,172
Molly Wood	1	21,710
Marne De La Rue	2	13,045
Marianne Panzini	3	16,445
Nancy Rivera	3	16,575
Carla Floyd	3	17,037
Annette Romero	4	24,730
Total		\$161,645

■ *Table: 2005 Shot Team.*