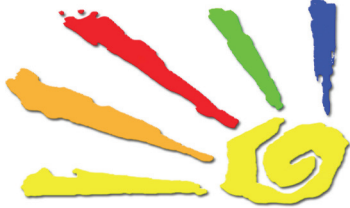


IMMUNIZE  
OUR KIDS  
VACUNEMOS  
NUESTROS  
NIÑOS



New Mexico  
IMMUNIZATION  
COALITION

# NM Immunization Coalition *News*

Spring 2008  
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## National Infant Immunization Week 2008 events

By **Anna Pentler**

*New Mexico Immunization Coalition*

April was a busy month for the New Mexico Immunization Coalition. In addition to the last week of April being National Infant Immunization Week, Governor Richardson proclaimed the month of April to be Childhood Awareness Month in New Mexico. Raising awareness about the importance of immunizations, honoring providers who are achieving high immunization rates, participating in the Caravan for Health kickoff activities and coordinating the statewide Got Shots Protect Tots clinics were the main activities this past month. Here's a summary of the events:

### Provider Awards Dinner

On April 18, A festive dinner ceremony at the Albuquerque Hilton honored 60 providers and individuals for doing an excellent job of getting children immunized. (See page 3 for listing of award

winners.) Fifty providers had immunization rates of 90% or above. In addition, one provider in each Public Health Region was awarded for having the most improved immunization rate, and hospitals in each of the Public Health Regions were honored for excellent coverage of the Hepatitis B birth dose. The awardees were given a certificate signed by the NMIC honorary chair, First Lady Barbara Richardson, and the two co-chairs, Margy Wienbar and Norm White.

The last category of awards was our Immunization Champion awards, given to individuals or groups who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to

educate about, advocate for, or innovate on behalf of immunizations. Our Champions this year were Sidney Kistin, contract nurse for Vecinos y Vacunas, Andrea Larez, nurse for Department of Health, Region IV, Bobby Romero, coordinator and driver for the Blue Cross Blue Shield Van, and the New Mexico Pharmaceutical Association.

The Immunization Champions each received a slate engraved plaque.

Almost two hundred people attended the awards dinner. The First Lady and the Department of Health Secretary



*New Mexico's Jane Peacock passing off symbolic torch to Dr. Escobedo from Texas*

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# NMIC members

**Honorary Chair:**

First Lady Barbara Richardson

**Co-Chairs:**

Margy Wienbar  
Norman White, MD

**Executive Director:**

Anna Pentler, MPH, MBA

**Participating Organizations:**

- AARP
- Aging and Long-Term Services Department
- Albuquerque Public Schools
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Mexico
- Border Health Office/BEC/NMSU
- Centers for Disease Control
- Doña Ana Immunization Coalition
- GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines
- Greater Albuquerque Immunization Network (GAIN)
- Indian Health Service
- La Clinica de Familia Medical Center
- Lovelace
- Merck Vaccine Division
- Molina Healthcare, Inc.
- NM Academy of Family Physicians
- NM CYFD
- NM Department of Health
- NM Immunization Advisory Group
- NM Influenza Vaccine Consortium
- NM Human Services Department
- NM Hospital and Health Systems
- NM Medical Review Association
- NM Medical Society/CPI
- NM Nurses Association
- NM Pediatric Society
- NM Pharmaceutical Association
- NM Primary Care Association
- NM Public Health Association
- NM School Nurses Association
- NM State Department of Education
- NM State PTA
- Presbyterian Health Services
- Rotary Clubs of New Mexico
- sanofi pasteur
- Santa Fe Immunization Coalition
- Sierra County Immunization Coalition
- University of New Mexico, Health Sciences Center
- Villa Therese Catholic Clinic
- Voices for Children
- Wyeth Vaccines

# Photo gallery

## NMIC's 5th Annual Immunization Provider Awards Dinner

*Clockwise from top:* Southwest Ballroom at the Hilton Albuquerque; Robert Filipczak, Gayle Kenny, Anna Pentler, First Lady Barbara Richardson, Lance and Kathy Chilton; Maria Goldstein presenting the award to Immunization Champion Sydney Kistin; NM Pharmacy Association members, Phil Griego, Michel Disco, Dale Tinker, John Pieper, with Secretary Alfredo Vigil; Sharon Notah

of Cochiti Health Clinic with Dr. Vigil; Accepting award for Pitts Medical Group, Frances Baca, Monique Maestas, Judy Gallegos, Rose Sanchez.



## Dia del Niño Healthfair

*Clockwise from top:* Mom with tot who got vaccinated; Loretta Mendoza (served as clinic coordinator) with patient and mom; John Polinko, our local and talented Merck representative who amazed the kids with his magic show; UNM nurses and student volunteers.



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both attended to honor the awardees. Our keynote speaker was Robert Filipczak from Bethel, Alaska who presented on some of the innovative ideas his Coalition uses to improve immunization rates. For photos from the Awards Dinner, see our photo gallery.

### PAHO Caravan for Health Kickoff Events

The first day of National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) and Vaccine Week in the Americas, New Mexico participated in a daylong Caravan for Health. Dignitaries from the CDC, the Pan American Health Organization, the US Dept. of Health and Human Services, the Mexican government Health agency, the NM Dept. of Health and the Texas Dept. of Health gathered in Sunland Park for the first event.

La Clinica de Familia hosted the Sunland Park event, providing an opportunity for high level dignitaries to recommit to keeping all children along the border safe from vaccine-preventable diseases. After a tour of the clinic and comments by the dignitaries, a symbolic torch was passed from the NM representative, Jane Peacock, Deputy Director of the Public Health Division to the TX representative, Dr. Luis Escobedo. The group then caravanned to El Paso for the next event. The final event was held across the border in Juarez.

It was a festive day, with a powerful message about the importance of high immunization coverage, a renewed commitment by the border entities to children's health through immunizations, and excellent media coverage.

### Got Shots? Protect Tots!

NMIC, NM Primary Care Association and NMDOH coordinated the third of our Got Shots? Protect Tots! weeklong events. We had 39 providers across the state open their doors to any child needing immunizations, regardless of ability to pay and without an appointment. Roughly half the providers have reported their numbers indicating we reached about 400 children and gave over 800 shots.

### Dia del Niño Health Fair

The NMIC helped to coordinate an immunization clinic at the National Hispanic Cultural Center Dia del Niño Health Fair. Together with Department of Health, UNM, First Choice and the Blue Cross-Blue Shield Van, NMIC helped organize a team of almost 40 volunteers to check shot records, look up children in NMSIIS, provide immunizations, and give incentives to children. Over 90 children got 275 shots during the Saturday event.

The immunization clinic was part of the larger health fair that provided opportunities for health services, screenings, entertainment, and fun activities for the children.

## Award Winners

### Immunization rates over 90%

#### Region I

Cochiti Health Clinic  
Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle I.H.S. Clinic  
First Choice Community HC, Belen  
Northern Navajo Medical Center  
Presbyterian Medical Group, Belen  
Presbyterian Rio Rancho, Pediatrics  
Sandia Pueblo Medical Clinic  
Santa Ana I.H.S. Clinic  
Santo Domingo Health Center  
Tohatchi Health Center  
Zia Health Clinic

#### Region II

Camino Entrada Pediatrics  
El Centro Family Health, Española  
Española Hospital, Pediatric Clinic  
La Familia Medical Center, South Side  
Las Vegas Clinic for Children & Youth  
Los Alamos Children's Clinic  
Rodeo Family Medicine  
Santa Fe P.H.S. Hospital  
Santa Fe Pediatric Associates

#### Region III

Focus Clinic @ Carrie Tingley Peds.  
Drs. De La Torre & Roveto  
First Choice Community HC, Alamosa  
First Choice Community HC, Broadway  
First Choice Community HC, N. Valley  
First Choice Community HC, S. Valley  
Lovelace Westside  
Presbyterian Medical Group, Atrisco  
Presbyterian Medical Grp., San Mateo  
Southwest Healthcare  
UNM Family Practice, NE Heights  
UNMH Pediatric Clinic  
James Wilterding, MD  
Young Children's Health Center

#### Region IV

Artesia Healthcare Professionals  
BCA Medical Associates  
Lea County Children's Center  
Lovington Medical Clinic  
Pediatric Health Services

#### Region V

Ben Archer HC, T or C Clinic  
Casa Alegre Pediatrics, LLC  
The Family Clinic  
First Step Pediatrics  
Greeg Family Healthcare  
Hidalgo Medical Services  
La Clinica de Familia, Las Cruces  
La Clinica de Familia, San Miguel  
White Mountain Medical  
Rio Grande Medical Group  
St. Anthony Pediatrics

### Most improved rates by region

- Pitts Medical Group, Reg. I
- Family Prac. Assoc. of Taos, Reg. II
- UNM FP, NE Heights\*, Reg. III
- Artesia HC Professionals\*, Reg. IV
- Zia Family Healthcare, Reg. V

### Immunization Champions

- Sidney Kistin
- Andrea Larez
- Robert Romero
- New Mexico Pharmacists Assn.

*\*Both over 90% and most improved*

# Calendar of upcoming events

## June

- 6/19 NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:30-4:30
- 6/25-26 ACIP meeting, Atlanta, GA

## July

- 7/17 NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:30-4:30

## August

- 8/1-31 National Immunization Awareness month
- 8/4-9 Got Shots? Protect Tots! statewide event
- 8/22 NMIC Full coalition meeting 10:30am-3pm (tentative)

## September

- 9/18 NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:30-4:30



*Girl who just received her immunizations at the Dia del Niño immunization event at National Hispanic Cultural Center, holding NMIC Rubber Duck.*

## NMSIIS Update

The NMDOH Immunization Program is working hard to address priority NMSIIS issues. Recently, NMDOH acquired full system & program responsibility of NMSIIS. IT contractors are working diligently to 1) resolve the duplication problem, 2) improve database functionality and reporting, and 3) implement an electronic interface for direct immunization data exchange. Stay tuned for more updates!



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