

Environmental Factors and Health Literacy within Spanish-Speaking Populations

NM INSPIRES Community Engagement Core

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BACKGROUND

Introduction

Health literacy, encompassing the ability to read, understand, and apply health-related information, is crucial for improving health outcomes. McCray (2005) underscores its significance by labeling health literacy as the currency for success in navigating healthcare systems. However, studies have shown alarming rates of patients struggling with basic health information comprehension, leading to potential misuse of healthcare services and delays in seeking medical attention. This difficulty in interpreting health information is influenced by various factors including educational level, cultural background, and demographics.

Focus

The primary goal of this research is to develop environmental health literacy (EHL) resources that will enable Spanish-speaking people to make knowledgeable decisions on environmental variables that impact their health. We can narrow the EHL gap by developing additional resources for Spanish-speaking people. With the provision of new environmental health literacy resources for New Mexico's Spanish-speaking populations, the aim is to guarantee that environmental health education is useful and accessible to all communities, regardless of identity.

Research Gap

Previous research has inadequately addressed the extent to which EHL materials have been made for Spanish-Speaking populations. In our study we were only able to collect research on three environmental factors that may be experienced by the Spanish-Speaking population in New Mexico. Additionally, our study only tested the materials to a small extent on their effectiveness in the community.

METHODS

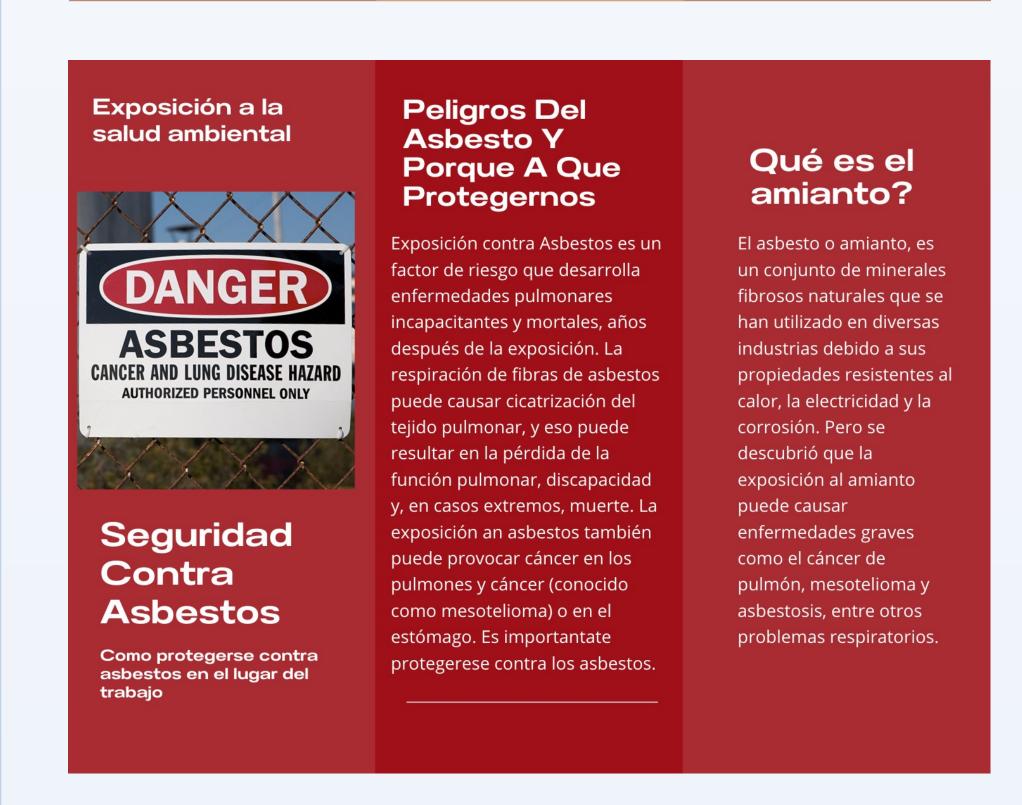
Overview

- Target Demographic Identification: Our primary focus centers on individuals aged 18 to 60 residing or working in areas with significant oil presence. This demographic is chosen for its representation of diverse life experiences and potential health susceptibilities, particularly concerning environmental exposures.
- Environmental Factors: We aim to highlight the relationship between occupational or residential proximity to oil-rich areas and the potential health implications arising from prolonged exposure to associated environmental contaminants. Additionally, we account for the concurrent impact of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure from the sun, presenting a nuanced exploration of the synergistic effects of environmental toxins and UV rays on health. Additionally, our material works to focus on asbestos exposure, particularly targeting individuals working in locations where asbestos-containing materials are present.
- Material Creation Process: The initial step involves researching existing materials relevant to environmental health exposure. Subsequently, comprehensive research is conducted to gather pertinent information, followed by a small audience analysis to tailor content and design preferences. Content is strategically organized, emphasizing key messages from research findings. Utilizing Canva software, collaborative efforts refine design and layout, with feedback from the target audience informing adjustments. Finally, the readability of brochures is assessed using the Health Literacy Connections online tool to ensure materials are comprehensible at a 3rdgrade reading level.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS







The above brochures are the results of our research. These documents encapsulate a resource for Spanish-speaking populations who work and live in oil rich communities. We invite you to peruse the attachments to delve deeper into the outcomes of our final project.

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KEYWORDS

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