



**Community-Based Childcare
Program
Extended Healthy Homes Program**

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Protecting Child's Environmental Health Along the U.S.-
Mexico Border Region Symposium



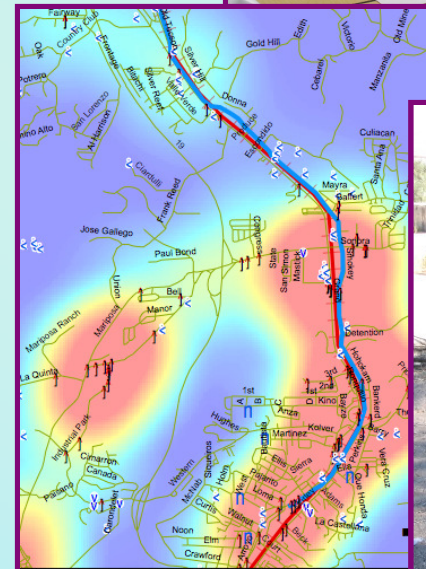
Outline of Presentation

- ❖ **Overview of SERI**
- ❖ **Goals of the program**
- ❖ **Assessment and results**
- ❖ **Implementation**
- ❖ **Success and lessons learned**



Who We Are

- ❖ Nonprofit established in 1994
- ❖ Work in Arizona and northern Mexico
- ❖ Environmental Justice Issues
- ❖ U.S./Mexico Border Environmental Issues
- ❖ Community Participatory Projects





Projects

- ❖ **Conducting healthy homes and childcare assessments and interventions**
- ❖ **Community liaison for the City of Tucson Lead Hazard Control Program (LHCP)**
- ❖ **Conducting fire inspections**
- ❖ **Planting trees and installing rainwater harvesting systems**
- ❖ **Conducting air and water quality research**





Goals

- ❖ **To expand the existing Healthy Homes Program**
- ❖ **To create a new childcare education, assessment and inspection program**
- ❖ **To address environmental, health and safety hazards in home-based and small childcare facilities**





Assessment

- ❖ **Follow the same procedures as our Healthy Homes Program**
 - **Conduct an initial visit and assessment for 29 hazards and complete referrals**
 - **Conduct follow-up inspection based on referrals**
- ❖ **Inspection and assessment done using SERI Healthy Homes Rating System (HHRIS) to guide the process**



Twenty-nine Hazards

- ❖ Damp and mold growth
- ❖ Excess heat and cold
- ❖ Asbestos
- ❖ Biocides
- ❖ Carbon Monoxide
- ❖ Uncombusted fuel
- ❖ Domestic hygiene, pests and refuse
- ❖ Food Safety
- ❖ Personal hygiene, sanitation and drainage
- ❖ Water supply
- ❖ Collisions and entrapment
- ❖ Explosions
- ❖ Position and operability of amenities
- ❖ Volatile Organic Compounds
- ❖ Crowding and space
- ❖ Lighting
- ❖ Noise
- ❖ Entry by Intruders
- ❖ Lead
- ❖ Radiation
- ❖ Falls associated with baths
- ❖ Falls on level surfaces
- ❖ Falls on stairs
- ❖ Falls between levels
- ❖ Electrical hazards
- ❖ Fire
- ❖ Flames and hot surfaces
- ❖ Structural collapse



Results

Some of the Hazards Found at Childcare Facilities	
Hazard	Total
Falls on stairs	15
Excess heat	81
Falls on levels surfaces	16
Excess cold	16
Fire	66
Entry by intruders	75
Electrical	8
Lead	128
Collision and entrapment	8

Results based on 232 home-based childcare facilities



Interventions

- ❖ **Based on the assessment and inspection SERI;**
 - **provides recommendations**
 - **provides resources and funds for interventions**
 - **refers home to the City of Tucson LHCP for qualifying home**
 - **child screening for lead in blood**
 - **refers to other partners**



Interventions

- ❖ **Assessed 232 home-based childcares and still ongoing**
- ❖ **Installed 1,079 smoke alarms, 922 drawer and cabinet locks, 2,086 outlet plugs, 295 electrical outlet plates, 31 door locks, 42 microwave Safe-T-sensors™ and 296 CO alarms**
- ❖ **Referred 40 to LHCP**
- ❖ **Tested 309 children for lead in blood**
- ❖ **41 SERI construction cases**



Implementation

- ❖ **Expanded Healthy Homes Program to create a new Home-Based Childcare Program**
- ❖ **Provided additional training modules for the promotoras**
 - **healthy schools and childcare**
 - **pesticides and risk assessment**
 - **fire inspections to meet the State requirements**



Implementation

- ❖ Received approval to conduct fire inspections of childcare providers with 10 or fewer children
- ❖ Established childcare recognition program





Implementation

- ❖ **To receive recognition, provider must fix recommended hazards**
 - **and conduct annual fire inspection**
- ❖ **SERI assists when funding is available**
- ❖ **Expansion funded by EPA**



Key to Success

- ❖ **Use of existing program to leverage resources**
- ❖ **SERI's promotoras**
- ❖ **Partners**
 - **Child and Family Resources**
 - **City of Tucson LHCP**
 - **Tucson Fire Department (TFD)**
 - **El Rio Community Health Center**
 - **University of Arizona**



Lessons Learned

- ❖ **Results clearly show a need for a community-based childcare program**
 - **to protect child's health and ensure safety**
- ❖ **Overall willingness to participate**
 - **Some providers do not want to complete lead inspections**



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