



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

User
New Mexico Community Data Collaborative

Challenge
A need to respond to a high volume of data requests

Solution
Create a collaborative data service to train users of its data warehouse and respond rapidly to requests leveraging an open data site

- Results**
- Over 75 galleries, maps, and apps containing over 1,000 indicators
 - Maps opened over 100 times a day
 - Over 600 people trained

New Mexico Connects Departments with Their Communities

Supplying community data and health statistics is the stock-in-trade of the New Mexico Community Data Collaborative (NMCDC). But this statewide data repository doesn't just provide information to anyone on demand or in any haphazard manner; the NMCDC adheres to fine-tuned procedures and principles in supplying data and training to the users of its data warehouse.

The Challenge

There was a need to create a central, collaborative data service to support the state's many health advocacy efforts. It was recognized that not only was a centralized data warehouse essential, but consolidating geographic information system (GIS) services, as part of the collaborative, would improve quality, increase data standardization, and apply geospatial formats to many databases for ease of use. This type of data warehouse would also come with many requests for data from multiple organizations throughout the state. In addition to protecting and anonymizing individual data, geocoding addresses, and pushing out data that was safe for public sharing and mapping, analysts were also being sent many requests for datasets, maps, and shapefiles.



“NMCDC functions under a new paradigm for public data services. As our guiding principles explain, a collaborative model implies sharing. Esri’s ArcGIS Online services provide the ideal medium for sharing.”

Thomas N. Scharmen, MA, MPH
New Mexico Department of Health’s
Albuquerque Metro and NW Regions,
Public Health Division

The Solution

Interested in empowering and engaging its communities, the New Mexico Community Data Collaborative (NMCDC) was created to have one central data warehouse that provides data at the subcounty neighborhood level so that decisions about local services and resource allocation, as well as identification of health disparities, can be made more accurately.

The need to provide not only health data but also other datasets, such as income, crime data, education, and service data, is essential to understanding the root causes that result in health outcomes. GIS helps analysts see the relationship between these datasets, which leads to a clearer understanding.

To easily share data with those stakeholders who needed it, the collaborative found the ArcGISSM Online services ideal. But NMCDC wasn’t just interested in sharing these resources with its community partners and other departments; it also wanted to teach users how to explore and interpret their community indicators using ArcGIS Online organizational resources.

The Results

NMCDC is a network of more than 50 active public health advocates and analysts from more than three dozen state agencies and nongovernmental organizations. Since NMCDC went online in November 2011, collaborators and staff have organized more than 80 workshops, attended by more than 600 people, which has helped them to strategically plan interventions, target limited resources, and change policy. On the website, there are more than 75 maps, apps, and galleries with several hundred shared shapefiles being opened more than 100 times a day.

How to open your data: go.esri.com/Open

NMCDC ArcGIS Site: Nmcdc.maps.arcgis.com

