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In the days of March 19th through March 26th the number of claims processed for unemployment in New Mexico were 31,849 (The State of New Mexico, 2020). An impact of climate change that the public is experiencing and will expect to endure in New Mexico is job loss statewide. This is due to the rapidly changing pandemic of COVID-19 which is occurring along an unprecedented trajectory of destruction. According to HuffPost, “The global spread of the [coronavirus](#) is intricately intertwined with the climate crisis. It is a problem exacerbated (and likely brought on) by environmental degradation of our own making, and how we respond to it could impact the health of the planet, and everyone on it, in ways that reverberate for generations to come.” (Why the Solutions, 2020). Specifically the critical area of climate change that has regional implications involves habitat loss and global warming. Importantly these topics may provide insight into current and future statistics of employment in New Mexico over the next 10-20 years.

Initially the state of New Mexico contains mostly rural areas with industries focused on service, tourism, and government (Sherman, 2019). Undoubtedly recovery efforts may not be enough to prevent thousands of other job losses due to the invasiveness of the COVID-19 disease. Considering the fact that more than half of the state’s largest economic gross product in New Mexico is produced from the service industry, the reality of maintaining or increasing job opportunities at this point in time is grim. As the numbers of confirmed cases increase daily the more unavailable employees will become due to quarantine practices. As of today on March 31st, 2020 in the state of New Mexico, “Forty-four new cases were reported Monday, bringing the total to 281.”(KOAT Action 7, 2020). Although that statistic is not as tolling as in other states the by-product of losing valuable people in the workforce will prove devastating for our

entire state. Consequently lessening the spread of this disease will harm the ability to upkeep economic stability due to closures of businesses, schools, and organizations statewide.

In the same way that we as humans are losing our sense of stability animals have become accustomed to a similar situation. The reduction in habitat space for wildlife has driven their need for survival closer to human quarters. It should be noted that, “Global warming can accelerate displacement by thawing, burning, flooding, or drying out habitats in response to hotter temperatures and stronger storms. “As habitats change and people move and wildlife moves, they’re going to be coming into contact more with each other,” said Jeanne Fair, a biosecurity and public health expert at Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico.” (Nelson, 2020). Without a doubt the merging of unfamiliar species within an established proximity may continue to expose new threats to both animals and the human body. This spillover event is, “A single event during which a pathogen from 1 species moves into another species; such movement can result in an outbreak.”(Brown, 2013). Therefore this observation should be acknowledged globally as a need to practice new methods of co-habitation with wildlife.

The next 10 - 20 years in New Mexico will affect job security if measures are not taken to prepare for future epidemics. This is due to the lack of positions available in the sectors devoted to maintaining the stability of the state. Uncertainty will continue to loom over the New Mexico’s plans on recovering from such steep shifts in unemployment due to the COVID-19 virus. The correlation of climate changes due to habitat loss and global warming can provide useful information for preventing similar occurrences in the future. Perhaps the declining economy will only affect residents for less than half of the 20 year prediction of job loss due to

climate change. Time is one of the last “sure” forms of measurement during the unstable living conditions we find ourselves in.

Individuals with jobs in the retail industry are being impacted the most by job loss in Albuquerque due to climate change. As seen in 2016 the most common occupations in New Mexico were for retail positions (New Mexico Department, 2018). Unfortunately this type of occupation provides the predominant source of income for many New Mexicans who now have to file for unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As seen in the media, newspapers, television, and radio the ever-changing outlook on re-opening the economy is uncertain. The health and well-being of these specific workers within the community will be affected both financially and mentally.

The health of people who previously held jobs in the retail industry is in question. This is because without job security the struggle to provide resources necessary to survive are extremely limited. Albuquerque’s food bank programs have declared an extreme shortage on supplies due to the amount of people in need of assistance during the series of events caused by COVID-19. Some economist project, “It could be two years before the economy fully recovers, and that would mean lower property tax revenues and higher unemployment. People will have more needs at a time when their local governments will be less able to help, said Betsey Stevenson, a professor of economics and public policy at the University of Michigan.”(NBC News, 2020). Similarly the nation’s food bank programs are nearing scarce numbers that may potentially run out of supplies completely if demand does not slow down. The reduction of nutrition values, adequate caloric intake, and sanitary products will cause health risks for this community and the

nation as a whole. With this in mind the fight against disease and hunger risk harming individuals if action is not taken to lessen the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

New Mexican's wellbeing in regards to mental health is declining. As the daily numbers of death rise due to the pandemic anxiety and depression have increased. Understandably the natural response to the current global incident has caused a triggered a series of emotional responses. In particular the retail workers that have lost their jobs are battling psychologically distress. Social contact and communication is strongly associated to optimal health in daily life. However, due to the restrictions enforced with social distancing mental health is changing. In order to combat the difficulties that self-isolation can cause, alternative options of communication should be utilized. For instance online activities, video conferencing, phone calls, or outdoor activities such as working out with family can all help to eliminate problematic psychological concerns.

The expected concerns for the community of retail workers include job opportunities, and maintaining a healthy mentality. A lack in resources along with unbalanced mental health is a disastrous combination with the potential to continue for years. In addition the surrounding communities are vulnerable to this crisis because of the widespread infection rates of the COVID-19 disease. Job loss is a continuous crisis not only in Albuquerque but nationwide, "It's a tough time for cities all over America," said Clarence Anthony, executive director of the National League of Cities. "The cost of COVID-19 is going to be devastating for the financial future of cities." (NBC News, 2020). All of the communities within Albuquerque have a responsibility to be mindful of all people struggling by helping them in any way possible. The

increased separation that has further divided our country will test our abilities to move forward together as a nation.

Public health preparedness is an essential component of recovering from job loss due to a pandemic. Ultimately the resources that implement preparedness, mitigation and response efforts are needed to correct the damage of COVID-19. The topic of job loss due to climate change will need assistance from all three sectors of public health preparation. This is because retail workers will depend upon factual information on current and future job security. As a result they will be able to decipher upon when or if they will be able to return to work or find a new form of employment. The thorough actions of a unified response effort will gradually reduce impacted individuals during and after a crisis.

The framework for applying public health preparedness measures includes complex planning and execution. Firstly considering statistical input from medical experts can contribute to the public's overall understanding of job loss due to climate change. By giving people visual tools to gage the severity of an issue, public health preparedness entities are taking an initiative for progressive movement in the future. Specifically continuous research and results must be available to the public in various mediums. Creating awareness of COVID's destruction and how to plan for its return is key in combating its havoc.

Adverse impacts of job loss will affect personal health, financial well-being, and economic standing. Without the ability to return to work people in the retail industry will rely upon financial and housing assistance programs funded by the state and local government. Although the capability to fund unemployed individuals is currently stable it may not withstand a longer duration, or volume of applicants in the future. In any case preparedness within New

Mexico must include: medical supplies/rooms, PPE, essential employees, emergency/crisis funding, and sanitizing/cleaning products. These standards need to be accounted for and preserved before and during a global pandemic. Specifically retail employees should receive legal reassurance from superiors and owners of a safe workplace environment. In order to provide employees security at work preventive measures must be in place before returning and during work. In addition employers need to comply with the state's objectives for reducing health risks by not pressuring their employees to return to insufficient working conditions.

Mitigation during the COVID-19 pandemic is occurring in the form of community involvement on all levels including: state, business, medical, law, and recreational intervention. People involved within these areas can actively comply with the guidelines enacted to lessen the loss of the global pandemic. Sacrifices small and large will be made with the purpose of contributing to a greater cause of well-being for all people. To reduce the adverse consequences of the COVID-19 issue people cannot continue to become divided. Rather a common plan must be established and maintained for an effective recovery effort. Moreover fighting against each other instead of the disease will delay the ability to slow or overcome its catastrophe.

A community's response should not be dismissive during a global pandemic. Without a doubt choosing to ignore or defy Governor's orders meant to protect communities should not be entertained. To clarify the blatant displays of retaliation that have been portrayed by protesting groups in New Mexico and across the nation can be dangerous. An example of this was with protesters gathering at the states capitol with assault rifles. There must be consequences for those who do not comply with rules and expectations. Failures to abide to emergency orders should be reprimanded with fines or legal action. Expectations of a productive community

response would include people working together as a team to overcome problems as they arise.

The disregard for society needs to end and respect for humankind must begin.

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