"We're Such a Small Community": A Qualitative Study of COVID-19 Pandemic Experiences in Rural New Mexico

Madison Gonya
University of New Mexico

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/skc

Gonya, Madison. "'We're Such a Small Community': A Qualitative Study of COVID-19 Pandemic Experiences in Rural New Mexico." (2021). https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/skc/2021/Posters/25

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Shared Knowledge Conference by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.
"We're Such a Small Community": A Qualitative Study of COVID-19 Pandemic Experiences in Rural New Mexico

Madison A. Gonya, Masters Student, Health Administration, University of New Mexico
Dr. Kate Cartwright, Associate Professor School of Public Administration, University of New Mexico
Lila Baca, BAMD Student, University of New Mexico
Audrey Eakman, BAMD Student, University of New Mexico

Rural communities throughout New Mexico faced different sets of challenges in the face of COVID-19 (Ranscome 2020; Mueller et al. 2021; RHI 2021). Such communities were burdened with uncontrolled community spread of COVID-19 that persisted longer than most of the U.S. (RHI 2021). Within this, New Mexican rural communities are more diverse than the average US rural community (RHI 2021). Data from 16 semi-structured interviews illuminate the experiences that rural New Mexicans encountered with physical health and healthcare challenges, mental health challenges, changing behaviors, health literacy, and the politicization of the pandemic. Discussion surrounding Rural New Mexico and the subsequent unique experiences of COVID-19 follows, and conclusions provided, as well.