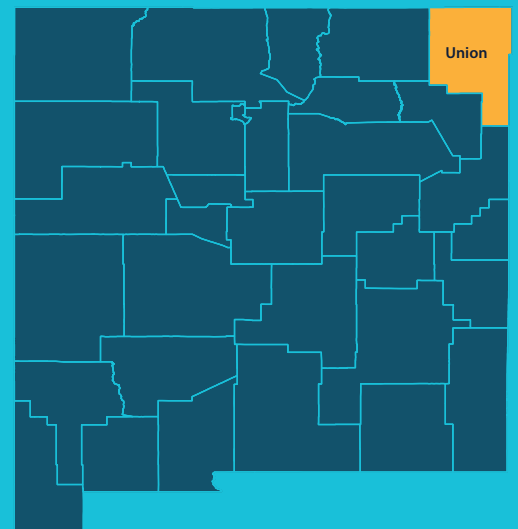


# PUBLIC HEALTH IN UNION COUNTY

Union County is located on the plains in the far northeastern corner of New Mexico, bordering Colorado to the north, and Oklahoma and Texas to the east. Union County was formed in 1894 and was named "Union" because the citizens were united in their desire for the creation of a new county out of three existing New Mexican counties: Colfax, Mora, and San Miguel. At one time, Union County had a population of over 20,000. Currently, the population is 4,370, making Union County the 4th least populous County in New Mexico.

Union County encompasses the town of Clayton- the County seat, and the villages of Folsom, Des Moines, and Grenville. This county is also home to Capulin Volcano National Monument, Clayton Lake State Park, and the Kiowa National Grasslands.



## ORAL HEALTH

**53% OF** surveyed **UNION COUNTY ADULTS** reported they **DID NOT VISIT A DENTIST IN THE PAST YEAR.**

**WHAT IS BEING DONE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY TO ADDRESS THIS HEALTH ISSUE?**

- The Union County Health Council Coordinator testified in legislative committees to advocate for the dental therapist bill. Approval of this bill would increase services for all medically underserved populations who live in rural and frontier areas throughout New Mexico. This bill would establish a mid-level oral health provider position in Union County and would increase access to essential oral health services. The bill passed the House overwhelmingly but was halted in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill will be reintroduced in the 2018 NM Legislative session.



# MENTAL HEALTH



From 2011 to 2015, **PERCENTAGES WORSENERD** for **5 MENTAL HEALTH INDICATORS AMONG** surveyed Union Co. **YOUTH**; for example, **IN 2011 12% OF HIGH SCHOOLERS** reported they **SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED SUICIDE** whereas **IN 2015 THAT PERCENTAGE INCREASED TO 18%**.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY TO ADDRESS THIS HEALTH ISSUE?

- The Union County Network provides scholarships and enrollment assistance for residents who pursue a degree that will enable them to deliver behavioral health services in Union County.
- Tri-County Behavioral Health Services offers a psychosocial rehabilitation group to residents who have substance misuse issues and/or a mental health diagnosis. Psychosocial rehabilitation helps people develop the social, emotional, and intellectual skills they need to live happily.

# PRIMARY CARE

There are **ONLY 2 PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS** to **SERVE** a population of **4,370 PERSONS** in Union County.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY TO ADDRESS THIS HEALTH ISSUE?

- 15 different stakeholders from Union County are leading a Recruit, Train, Retain, Sustain (RTRS) workgroup to recruit potential employees for high-need healthcare workforce areas. Recruitment takes place for paramedics, lab techs, radiologists, and other healthcare fields. The RTRS project brings medical professionals to the area, boosts the economy, and provides much needed services to Union County residents.
- Union County General Hospital partners with the University of New Mexico to offer pediatric emergency medicine telehealth services to all Union County residents. Neurology telehealth services are now offered at the hospital.



For more information contact: Amy Sandoval, Northeast Region Health Promotion Program Manager at [Amy.Sandoval@state.nm.us](mailto:Amy.Sandoval@state.nm.us) or 505-476-2675

### Sources:

- Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics (BVRHS), New Mexico Department of Health
- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey (BRFSS) Data, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Area Health Resource File (AHRF)
- Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey, Survey Section, Epidemiology and Response Division, New Mexico Department of Health and, NM Public Education Department.