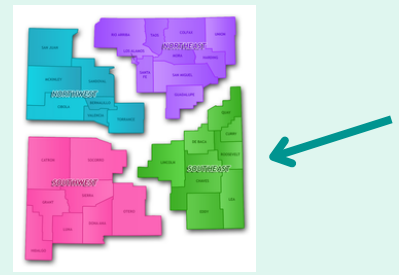


# COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HEALTH RESEARCH



## Overview

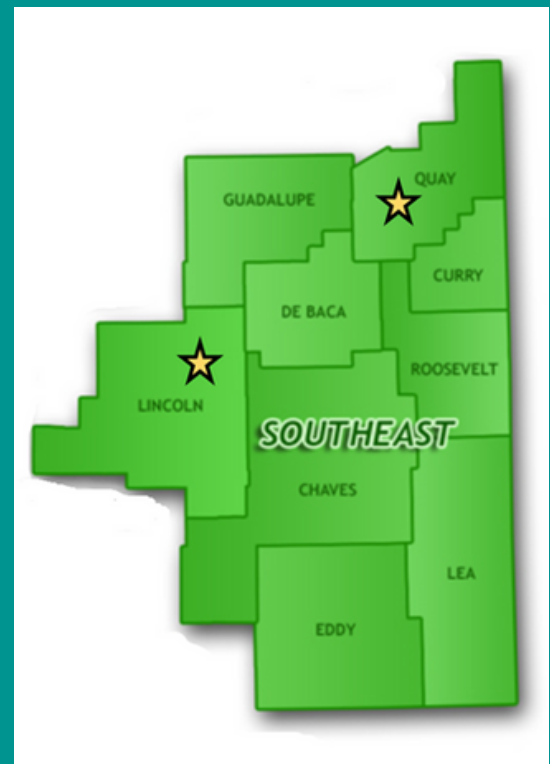
In March of 2023, the Integrating Special Populations Committee of the University of New Mexico, supported a community conversation with folks in the **Southeast** region of New Mexico. The goal was to hear different perspectives on how to include diverse populations in health research.

The following main questions were asked:

1. What do communities want to know before agreeing to participate in research?
2. When a study is presented as an opportunity for your community, what things need to be addressed to see if it is a good fit?

## Who took part in the conversation

Cynthia Killough, a UNM community liaison, invited a selection of community members to take part in the conversation from health councils in **Lincoln** and **Quay** counties (designated with **gold stars** on the map). In total 9 community members participated and each were given \$80 in merchandise cards as a thank you for their time.



# What Community Members Shared

## 1. Research perceptions:

Community members expressed how the pandemic had impacted their views in a negative way in terms of distrust towards researchers and the medical community. They also discussed research having a political agenda which adds to feelings of distrust.

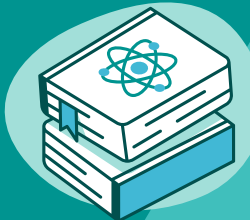


## 2. Recommendations for researchers:

- Obtain community buy-in before the project starts
- Respect participants
- Follow best practices for surveys
- Answer participant's questions throughout the study

## 4. Barriers to research participation:

- Mental health and substance use
- Issues with confidentiality
- Attitudes towards LGBTQ+ can make it difficult to reach these populations



## 3. Information the community needs to know:

- The purpose of the research
- The immediate benefit to community
- Funding sources

## 5. Southeast culture considerations in New Mexico:

- Be aware of diverse and complex caregiver relationships
- We have transportation, food, and housing needs
- There are healthcare and social services needs

