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Comprehensive intervention project for the prevention and control of acute diarrhea and cholera in Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico

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Introduction: In Ensenada, Baja California, unspecified acute gastroenteritis is the second cause of illness. In 2013 starts the sanitary threat due to climate change, conditioning a rise and prolongation of temperatures, causing meteorological and hydrological droughts, reflecting in 2014 an unusual 51% increase of acute diarrhea cases.

Objective: Aim of this study is to strengthen an organized social response in the city of Ensenada by means of the epidemiological units, monitor the behavior of diarrhea patients, identify the bacteriological causal agent, detect risk factors and ensure the modification of risk determiners designed of care, water use and food handling. The compiled information will be distributed to the scientific community.

Method: Situational diagnosis was conducted to identify the most vulnerable localities in Ensenada. Health brigades were trained comprised by a medic and/or nurse and a health promoter regarding prevention topics, diarrhea and cholera control to give an educational campaign in the most vulnerable population in 2014-2016.

Results: The investigation lasted from 2014 to 2016 with twelve pre-emptive operatives in the most vulnerable communities of Ensenada, lowering the diarrhea incidents by 28% compared to 2014 and 24% compared to 2015 to 2016. The propagation of toxigenic *Vibrio cholerae* no-01, *Vibrio fluvialis*, and *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in the population was identified for the first time, thus the education and health promotion actions are focused in the population regarding these illness and the modification of the social determiners regarding health.

Biography

Alexandra Terríquez Chávez is a General Practitioner, since 2012, she has been working for the Instituto de Servicios de Salud Pública of Baja California as responsible jurisdictional authority for the epidemiological monitoring of the acute diarrheal illness, cholera and epidemiological emergencies. She is a member of the medical association of Ensenada. She has experience in the diagnosis and multidisciplinary care of patients with gnathostomiasis in the community, and raising awareness of the illness in the scientific community.

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