

## In Española, Barrios Unidos Keeps Strong amid the Opioid-Fentanyl Crisis.

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After the apparition of fentanyl, a synthetic and potent drug usually combined with heroin, the deaths by overdose looks like that had been increased.

Rio Arriba County in New Mexico, has been identified as the second highest county nationwide for synthetic drugs, and the widespread of the substance has reached remote areas like Española Valley.

On February 2020, **UNIVISION** reported on Rio Arriba area, pin-pointing the strategic work community organizations do to stand up against this problem.

In an interview with **UNIVISION**, **Ms. Lupe Salazar**, Founder and Executive Director of Barrios Unidos, a community organization in Chimayo that provides support to families involved in addiction, said:

- *“Deaths (since the fentanyl apparition) have been worse, because more people are dying”.*

Adding that:

- *“Mothers must be strong, and do everything they have to do”-*

Even though that it is not easy to provide help for those who seek assistance, reciprocity helps her to continue working, she said.

Finally, support and understanding became a turning point for families who work every day to overcome the effects of this crisis.



**Ms. Lupe Salazar**, Founder of Barrios Unidos