

# 2012 Annual Report

United States-México  
Border Health Commission

# MISSION

*To provide international leadership that optimizes health and quality of life along the U.S.-México border*

# GOALS

*To institutionalize a domestic focus on border health that can transcend political changes*

*To create an effective venue for binational discussion to address public health issues and problems affecting the U.S.-México border region*



## TO OUR **STAKEHOLDERS**

The United States-México Border Health Commission (BHC) is pleased to present its 2012 *Annual Report*. In recognition of the need for an international commission to provide leadership that can optimize health and quality of life along the U.S.-México border, the Governments of the United States of America and the United Mexican States signed the binational agreement to establish the Commission in July 2000. Since that time, the Commission's vision and direction have assisted binational efforts at the local, state, and federal levels to improve the health of people along the border.

The Commission has continued to accomplish its objectives through the promotion of border health initiatives that address infectious and chronic disease, including the *U.S.-México Border Binational Infectious Disease Conference*, the *U.S.-México Border Tuberculosis Consortium and Legal Forum*, *Healthy Border 2010/2020*, and binational obesity and diabetes prevention and awareness campaigns during *Border Binational Health Week*.

The BHC would like to recognize the efforts of numerous individuals, organizations, the research community, and other binational public and private stakeholders whose continued work, dedication, and commitment have strengthened the foundations established by the Commission 12 years ago. Their contributions exemplify the spirit of binational communication, coordination, and collaboration that is critical to address public health challenges unique to U.S.-México border communities.

The BHC remains committed to providing leadership, bringing focus on the issues, and serving as a venue for action to improve the overall quality of life along our shared border.



***The Honorable  
Kathleen Sebelius***

Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health  
and Human Services  
United States of America



***The Honorable  
Mercedes Juan***

Secretary  
México Secretariat of Health  
United Mexican States

# ANNUAL REPORT 2012



*Optimizing health and quality of life  
for border residents*



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The mission of the U.S.-México Border Health Commission (BHC) is to provide international leadership that optimizes health and quality of life along the U.S.-México border by facilitating binational communication, coordination, and collaboration between the two federal governments, 10 border states, 44 counties, 80 municipalities, and local stakeholders. During 2012, the BHC advanced initiatives and programs that address borderwide public health issues and shape cross-border health strategies to enhance health and wellness for all border residents.

Nurturing cross-border alliances has enabled the BHC to successfully implement its foundational initiatives and activities in binationally identified priority areas, which include access to care; strategic planning; research, data collection, and academic alliances; tuberculosis; obesity and diabetes; and infectious disease and public health emergencies. To this end, the BHC will continue to raise awareness of border public health issues, mobilize actions required to improve the border health status by strengthening decisive partnerships and venues, serve as a gateway to important border health information, and prepare its current and future leaders to execute the BHC’s mission.

The BHC acknowledges the indispensable, cross-border partnerships with and support from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the México Secretariat of Health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Pan American Health Organization, policymakers, academic institutions, and other borderwide stakeholders who advance the work of the Commission.

## NATIONAL INFANT IMMUNIZATION WEEK/BORDER BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK

Weeklong community health promotion initiatives that unite communities throughout the border and both nations in advancement of borderwide, sustainable partnerships that can address border health challenges.

## MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM

A collaborative effort between the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration/Maternal and Child Health Bureau, and other U.S. and México health institutions to increase the capacity for collection, analysis, and data use in response to maternal and child health priorities.

## HEALTHY BORDER 2010/2020

An ambitious health promotion and disease prevention initiative established in March 2001 to improve the health of border residents and eliminate health disparities. The initiative focuses attention on regional health issues through the development of bilateral, borderwide, and community health improvement plans.

## U.S.-MÉXICO BORDER HEALTH RESEARCH FORUM

A binational public forum that connects U.S. and México academic and research institutions to initiate cross-border research that can be replicated as well as promote resource sharing and collaborative partnerships.

## U.S.-MÉXICO BORDER TUBERCULOSIS CONSORTIUM MEETING AND LEGAL FORUM

An initiative that gathered over 60 public health and legal experts from binational federal, state, academic, government, and non-governmental organizations to develop work groups and action plans that reinforce binational and borderwide responses to tuberculosis issues and incidence rates.

## NEW MEXICO-CHIHUAHUA TUBERCULOSIS PILOT PROJECT

A binational collaborative initiative to decrease tuberculosis in the New Mexico-Chihuahua border region through enhanced surveillance and treatment efforts of all patients diagnosed with active and latent tuberculosis and to prevent multi-drug resistant tuberculosis.

## OBESITY MINI FORA

Regional fora organized to identify interventions relevant to obesity-related issues affecting various border communities that can be used to inform the development of the *U.S.-México Border Obesity Prevention Summit* taking place in July 2013.

## U.S.-MÉXICO BORDER BINATIONAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONFERENCE

An event that convened over 130 participants from binational federal, state, and local agencies as well as county and city health departments to address bilateral activities regarding cross-border and global partnerships, global health security, and efforts to prevent and control biological threats.

## BINATIONAL HEALTH COUNCILS

A binational health council is a community health organization that examines the health needs, problems, and available programs associated with the council’s cross-border geographical area. Approximately 15 binational health councils stretch along the border region, to include associated binational sister-cities and two Native-American tribes.

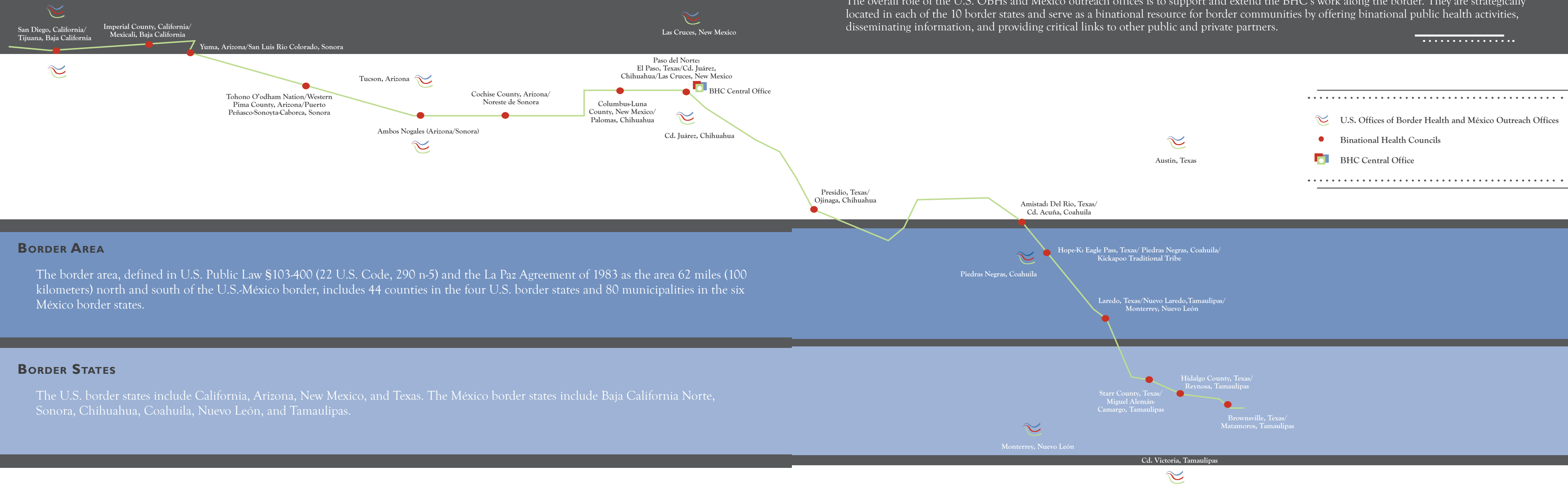
Binational health councils are critical to the BHC because they form an essential framework for acting on binational health issues and priorities by positioning themselves as the local and regional voices for public health.

# BORDER REGION AT A GLANCE

## U.S. OFFICES OF BORDER HEALTH AND MÉXICO OUTREACH OFFICES

The four U.S. Offices of Border Health (OBH) and six México outreach offices work closely with their respective state health departments. The U.S. OBHs receive funding support through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services cooperative agreements provided to each of the U.S. state health departments. The México outreach offices receive funding support through the México Secretariat of Health.

The overall role of the U.S. OBHs and México outreach offices is to support and extend the BHC’s work along the border. They are strategically located in each of the 10 border states and serve as a binational resource for border communities by offering binational public health activities, disseminating information, and providing critical links to other public and private partners.





# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The U.S.-México Border Health Commission (BHC) elevates public health standards within U.S.-México border communities by engaging binational local, state, federal, and international leaders to collaborate with health professionals in strategic ways. To determine priority areas along the border, the BHC solicited community input from binational health councils, community partners, and numerous stakeholders, including the Health Work Table component of the Border Governors Conference, which provides recommendations on health issues affecting border populations. Through this process, the BHC identified six key strategic priorities.

- ACCESS TO CARE**  
Improve access to health care on the border by creating a culture of wellness and prevention, strengthening the public health infrastructure, and promoting evidence-based interventions and models of excellence.
- RESEARCH, DATA COLLECTION, AND ACADEMIC ALLIANCES**  
Assemble U.S. and Mexican academic and research professionals to promote border health research and policy development that can enhance border health.
- OBESITY AND DIABETES**  
Promote awareness of the prevalence, risk factors, and health outcomes of the obesity epidemic on the U.S.-México border.


- STRATEGIC PLANNING**  
Convene subject matter experts and other principals from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the México Secretariat of Health, and cross-border local and state leaders to address BHC strategic priorities and initiatives.
- TUBERCULOSIS**  
Reduce the burden of tuberculosis (TB) in binational border communities by advancing cross-border cooperation in TB surveillance, control, education, prevention, and case management.
- INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES**  
Address critical infectious disease and emergency preparedness issues impacting the border region.



LOVE THEM.  
PROTECT THEM.  
IMMUNIZE THEM.

## ACCESS TO CARE

### NATIONAL INFANT IMMUNIZATION WEEK



The U.S.-México Border Health Commission (BHC) sponsored the border component of the 9th Annual National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) April 21-28, 2012, in partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). This annual weeklong event unites communities throughout the border and both nations to ensure all children are healthy and protected against vaccine-preventable diseases.

NIIW offers federal, state, and local border health organizations the opportunity to celebrate and coordinate their efforts to eradicate preventable diseases in infants and children through increased vaccinations. Since 2004, the BHC has worked closely with CDC and PAHO to promote immunization in the U.S.-México border region in conjunction with the U.S. NIIW, the México National Health Weeks, celebrated since 1991 to promote increased immunization coverage throughout México, and *Vaccination Week in the Americas*, a PAHO campaign that promotes immunizations throughout the Americas.

Promoting the NIIW campaign theme of “Love them. Protect them. Immunize them,” local border community members collaborated to sponsor and/or participate in training events, health fairs, and other immunization-related activities intended to increase outreach opportunities that engage parents and caregivers as partners in immunization.

To kick off NIIW, the Texas Department of State Health Services Office of Border Health, in partnership with the Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, and Coahuila State Secretariats of Health, CDC, PAHO, the Laredo Health Department, and many other organizations, sponsored an inaugural event on April 23 in Laredo, Texas. The event showcased notable health experts from CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, México’s National Center for Infant and Adolescent Health, and PAHO, among others. Attendees took part in a panel discussion on the accomplishments and challenges of childhood immunizations in the border region, followed by a training session for health care providers.

Additional borderwide events included vaccine clinics; health fairs promoting vaccinations with educational materials, games, contests, and exhibits; professional workshops and trainings; immunization campaigns; and press conferences to educate the community.

Over 90 borderwide events reached more than 13,000 residents in the border region that resulted in increased vaccination coverage, especially in rural areas, and also provided an opportunity to educate at-risk populations, including teen parents and migrants.

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Each year, the U.S.-México Border Health Commission (BHC) sponsors *Border Binational Health Week (BBHW)* in communities throughout the border region, providing a venue for federal, state, and local organizations, private and non-profit partners, academic institutions, and key U.S. and México leaders to interact with the binational border community in ways that educate, enable, and encourage people of all ages to adopt healthier lifestyles.

Held the first week of October, the *9th Annual BBHW*, sponsored in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the México Secretariat of Health, the Health Initiative of the Americas, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the 10 U.S.-México border states, continued to boost cross-border partnerships through the theme “Families in Action for Health” and adjoining focus “Preventing Obesity and Diabetes.”

In 2012, BBHW promoted over 170 borderwide activities that dispensed health promotion and disease prevention information, including health fairs, fora, training events, and programs highlighting obesity and diabetes.

To date, BBHW has facilitated connections between public health professionals and over 1.2 million border residents in an effort to promote sustainable partnerships that address health challenges unique to border populations. Forthcoming BBHW celebrations will continue efforts to increase community and inter-agency networking relationships, information sharing, educational opportunities, and awareness of the BHC and other state and local initiatives.



*Celebrating and promoting healthy lifestyles for all ages*



The BHC Chihuahua Outreach Office, in collaboration with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Office of Border Health (OBH) Region 9/10, the Health Jurisdiction of Ciudad Juárez, and the Mexican National System for Integral Family Development, held a BBHW inaugural event at Vicente Guerrero Elementary School in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, on October 1. Over 500 elementary school students attended this event that celebrated the collaboration between U.S. and México health authorities in advancing obesity and diabetes education and prevention, especially among children and adolescents.

The California Outreach Office, in partnership with Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest and in collaboration with the Health Resources and Services Administration and other supporting organizations, co-hosted a regional BBHW closing event in Chula Vista, California, on October 4, in conjunction with the *4th Annual Binational Dialogue* to address the status of women’s reproductive rights in the United States and México.

The México Secretariat of Health, Baja California State Secretariat of Public Health Services, and BHC Outreach Office hosted a regional BBHW closing event in Tijuana, Baja California, on October 5 to commemorate approximately 20 events held locally in the Baja California-California region. Key participants included Dr. Lawrence Kline, BHC Member-California; Dr. Alfonso Valenzuela, BHC Member-Baja California; Dr. Gudelia Rangel, Delegate, México Secretary of Health; and Dr. Gustavo Iturralde, Health Promotion and Family Health Officer, PAHO. BBHW is held in conjunction with México’s *3rd National Health Week* each year, demonstrating a binational effort to improve border health.

Over 200 health professionals attended the *9th Annual Faces of Diabetes Conference* on October 19 in El Paso, Texas. Sponsored by the El Paso Diabetes Association, with assistance from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, University Medical Center of El Paso, Texas, the Texas DSHS OBH, the New Mexico Department of Health OBH, Paso del Norte Children’s Development Center, and the City of El Paso, the conference facilitated discussion on diabetes prevention, treatment, management, and research.





The *Border Maternal and Child Health (BorderMACH)* initiative, which aims to strengthen U.S.-México collaboration in Maternal and Child Health (MCH), completed its third full year at the BHC in 2012.

BorderMACH is a major focus of the Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Program (MCHEP), a collaborative effort between the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration/Maternal Child Health Bureau, which helps promote improved health and well-being for women, children, and families at state, local, and tribal levels.

In May 2009, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Global Affairs and the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at CDC signed a memorandum of understanding to support the enhancement of epidemiologic capacity in maternal and child health and health promotion in the border region. BorderMACH supports binational sister-city teams of public health program directors, policy experts, epidemiologists, and other health officials in communities working to better use existing reproductive health data in the border region.

Institutions collaborating with the BHC include the México Secretariat of Health, the National Institute of Public Health, the Mexican Social Security Institute, the National Center for Health Statistics/CDC, CityMatCH, and U.S. and México local and state health departments and academic institutions.

In May 2011, the second BorderMACH workshop was held in El Paso, Texas. Four BorderMACH teams participated, including teams from Tijuana-San Diego County, Nogales-Santa Cruz County, Juárez-El Paso-Doña Ana County, and Cameron County-Matamoros communities. The workshop curriculum focused on project proposal and logic model development and emphasized the role of local data in these activities through practical team exercises. Proposals the teams drafted during the workshop currently serve as templates for further binational collaboration in MCH.

A recently completed evaluation of BorderMACH Workshop II collected information from team members, faculty members, and observers to identify workshop strengths and provide guidance for future workshops. The evaluation is scheduled for release in 2013.

In addition to BorderMACH activities, MCHEP staff also conducts collaborative binational research in MCH and related topics, disseminates their findings at national meetings and in peer-reviewed journals, and provides technical assistance to local and state health departments in the region.



Established by the BHC as a binational agenda on health promotion and disease prevention in March 2001, the *Healthy Border (HB) 2010* initiative represents a binational strategy intended to improve health outcomes along the U.S.-México border. Originally founded within the framework of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services *Healthy People 2010*, the U.S. *Healthy Gente*, and México's *Salud del Programa Nacional de Salud de México (National Health Indicators)*, HB 2010 established a set of leading health indicators designed to help health experts, organizations, and communities prioritize health issues and develop sustainable health programs in the U.S.-México border region. As part of the five-phase, five-year HB 2010/2020 strategic framework, a border binational work group of health experts was established to evaluate and close out HB 2010 as well as initiate the development and implementation of HB 2020.

In 2012, the BHC completed Phase III of the five-phase HB strategic plan and initiated Phase IV. To this end, the Arizona Department of Health Services Office of Border Health, the Baja California and Sonora Outreach Offices, and the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health convened the third set of meetings of the HB 2010/2020 Border Binational Technical Work Group (BBTWG) in April and June 2012, in Phoenix, Arizona, bringing together health experts from U.S. and México federal and state health agencies to draft the *HB 2010 Joint Closeout Report* and begin developing the HB 2020 agenda.



The *HB 2010 Joint Closeout Report* comprises a binational effort to evaluate border region data, assess the status of HB 2010 health objectives, and report on HB 2010 outcomes. In 2013, the BBTWG will update the *HB 2010 Joint Closeout Report* draft and finalize the *HB 2020 Rollout Plan*.



# STRATEGIC PLANNING

## NEW FRONTIERS IN GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), or chronic diseases, are rapidly becoming the leading causes of premature death and preventable morbidity in resource-limited communities throughout the United States and México. To address this global crisis, leading public health experts from around the world assembled at the *New Frontiers in Global Health Leadership: Building Strong Health Systems to Respond to Non-Communicable Diseases* inaugural forum March 28-31 in Tucson, Arizona, an event hosted by the Global Health Institute at the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health in collaboration with the U.S.-México Border Health Commission, the Tohono O'odham Department of Health and Human Resources, and Henkel, Inc.

The forum brought together approximately 60 participants to promote a strategic assessment of case studies from Southern Arizona, the Tohono O'odham Nation, and the U.S.-México border region in light of culturally-tailored, global NCD, and chronic disease models generated in response to recommendations from the 2011 *United Nations Non-Communicable Diseases Summit*.

In addition, participants were encouraged to contribute to a more effective global response to NCDs by sharing and exchanging best practices during facilitated case study application work groups as well as site visits to local community health centers, where attendees gained first-hand knowledge of local health systems. By connecting at a community level, health experts actively worked to strengthen local and global health systems, specifically regarding quality assurance, health workforce development, integration, and health information systems and referral.

*Native and immigrant communities in the border region suffer from some of the highest rates of chronic diseases in the world. In response, local models have emerged to integrate health systems, address human resource limitations, maximize the value of promotores, and improve the quality of care for chronic conditions.*



# RESEARCH, DATA COLLECTION, AND ACADEMIC ALLIANCES

## U.S.-MÉXICO BORDER HEALTH RESEARCH FORUM

One of the most critical public health challenges faced by governmental agencies, research institutions, and health care professionals working to improve quality of life and health within U.S.-México border communities is the lack of a comprehensive border health research agenda that advances effective, evidence-based interventions. In pursuit of this agenda, the BHC assembled U.S. and México federal, state, academic, government, and non-governmental organizations at the fourth *U.S.-México Border Health Research (BHR) Forum* on June 5 in San Diego, California. Hosted by the California Outreach Office and California Department of Public Health, in collaboration with the Baja California Outreach Office, the BHR Forum provided a venue for public health leaders to continue their efforts to develop cross-border research that allows policymakers to establish and strengthen binational health policies.

In 2012, participants identified opportunities and mechanisms to establish guidelines for a binational institutional review board (IRB) process; determined processes for collaborative cross-border research that can be replicated; discussed updates on the proposal to establish a journal of border health; and promoted resource sharing and collaborative partnerships.

Additional topics addressed included an update on the *Healthy Border 2010 Joint Closeout Report* and ethical considerations in research. This year also included presentations on binational research projects that highlighted specific studies and the efforts of researchers and border organizations to promote border binational research.

The BHC plans to convene the next BHR Forum in 2013 to address topics related to ethical issues in research, promote binational research, and identify feasible methods to disseminate research. Through this forum, the BHC will sustain its efforts to identify strategies to develop and implement an expansive border health research agenda that can initiate enduring, coordinated dialogues and actions focused on understanding the current and future border health research environment.

*Promoting research collaboration that assists policymakers to establish and strengthen binational health policies*





# TUBERCULOSIS

## U.S.-MÉXICO BORDER TUBERCULOSIS CONSORTIUM MEETING AND LEGAL FORUM

The U.S.-México Border Health Commission (BHC) convened the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual U.S.-México Border Tuberculosis (TB) Consortium Meeting and Legal Forum, hosted by the New Mexico Department of Health's (NM DOH) Office of Border Health (OBH), in collaboration with the California Outreach Office, California Department of Public Health, and the Chihuahua Outreach Office on May 7-8 in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

The meeting and legal forum brought together federal, state, and local TB program managers, federal law enforcement officials, legal experts, consular officials, and medical care providers representing both U.S. and México government and non-government organizations to develop work groups and action plans that reinforce binational and borderwide responses to binational TB issues.

Border public health and legal experts addressed the need to improve continuity of care and binational TB treatment completion rates; augment

TB patient management coordination among U.S. and Mexican state and federal legal frameworks; establish uniform Meet and Greet standards and guidelines applicable to all TB patients deported from the United States to México; and analyze treatment regimens for multi-drug resistant (MDR)-TB and TB with comorbidities, with an emphasis on diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and Coccidioidomycosis.

To address these topics, the *TB Continuity of Care*, *Binational MDR-TB Expert Network*, and *TB Legal Issues Work Groups* were established, each developing an action plan to address overall meeting objectives and other topic-specific issues.

With assistance from the NM DOH OBH, the Chihuahua Outreach Office, and the BHC, each work group will investigate these actions throughout the year and provide updates at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual U.S.-México Border Tuberculosis Consortium Meeting and Legal Forum, scheduled for May 2013 in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

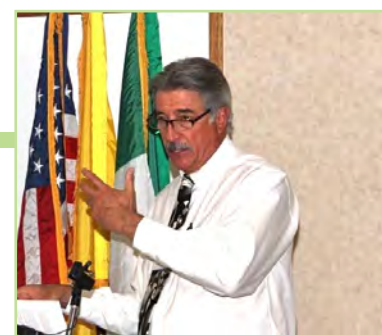


TB Consortium Meeting and Legal Forum

## NEW MEXICO-CHIHUAHUA TUBERCULOSIS PILOT PROJECT

The BHC continued its support for the *New Mexico-Chihuahua Tuberculosis (TB) Pilot Project*, a three-year binational initiative began in 2009 to decrease TB in the New Mexico-Chihuahua border region through efforts to enhance surveillance and treatment of all patients diagnosed with active and latent TB and to prevent MDR-TB.

The TB pilot project was coordinated through the NM DOH's OBH, TB Program, and Public Health Region 5 as well as the Chihuahua State Health Services, the JUNTOS Project, and the Migrant Clinicians Network. In 2012, the project provided education and treatment under Directly Observed Therapy to active TB patients, implemented adherence strategies for at-risk patients, coordinated contact investigations, and expanded project infrastructure and outreach to include rural areas.







  
Texas Obesity  
Mini Fora



# OBESITY AND DIABETES

OBESITY MINI FORA

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Along the **TEXAS** border, approximately two-thirds of adults are overweight and nearly one-third is obese. Texas border residents are also less likely than residents of non-border counties to engage in leisure-time physical activity and complications associated with obesity, including diabetes, are higher in border counties than in non-border counties\*.

To address the obesity epidemic, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Office of Border Health (OBH), in partnership with the Nuevo León, Tamaulipas, Coahuila, and Chihuahua Outreach Offices, organized four regional mini fora to identify interventions relevant to obesity-related issues affecting various border communities. Organized in Presidio, McAllen, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass, Texas, throughout November and December, the mini fora included participants from the 10 border states, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, regional academic institutions, local health departments, the Pan American Health Organization, binational health councils, and other stakeholders. Participants worked toward developing greater awareness of obesity and its related effects; identifying the needs and abilities of border communities to serve as recommendations for action by federal and state agencies; and improving community involvement in the planning and implementation of intervention strategies.

Information gathered from these fora will assist the Texas DSHS OBH and the Chihuahua Outreach Office in development of the U.S.-México Border Obesity Prevention Summit (BOPS) scheduled for July 2013. A priority list of recommendations and interventions that can help reduce the prevalence of obesity and its consequences within border communities is currently being generated from fora results and will be presented at the BOPS.

\*Data taken from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2011 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.



# INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND HEALTH EMERGENCIES

## U.S.-MÉXICO BORDER BINATIONAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONFERENCE

The third *U.S.-México Border Binational Infectious Disease (BBID) Conference* took place on May 22-24 in Austin, Texas, bringing together federal, state, and local partners from both sides of the U.S.-México border to address critical infectious disease and emergency preparedness issues impacting the region as well as approaches to resolve those issues.

Sponsored by the U.S.-México Border Health Commission (BHC) and organized by the Texas Department of State Health Services Office of Border Health, in collaboration with the Chihuahua Outreach Office, the three-day conference included panel discussions on binational preparedness, surveillance, epidemiology, and the cross-border sharing of public health items. Participants received additional networking opportunities through a poster session and training in data visualization for epidemiology and surveillance.

In total, 150 participants representing federal, state, and local health agencies and laboratories from all 10 U.S. and México border states attended the conference, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Pan American Health Organization; México Secretariat of Health; Diagnostic and Epidemiological Reference Institute; General Directorate of Epidemiology; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); CDC Department of Global Migration and Quarantine; HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response; U.S. Customs and Border

Protection; Texas A&M University; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, San Diego; Texas Tech University; National Polytechnic Institute; and National Autonomous University of Tamaulipas.

Conference attendees shared a common interest in significant advances achieved in border and binational disease surveillance over the past year, most notably the signing of the *Guidelines for United States-Mexico Coordination on Public Health Events of Mutual Interest (Guidelines)* by the U.S. and Mexican Secretaries of Health at the World Health Assembly on May 22, 2012. In recognition of the *Guidelines*, border health agencies and practitioners have established various approaches to improve the cross-border transport of public health items, information and data sharing, and communication. Collaboration among U.S. and Mexican counterparts has proven critical to successful binational surveillance, outbreak investigations, and the control and prevention of infectious diseases on both sides of the border.

The BHC plans to convene the next BBID Conference in 2014 to continue building relationships and strategic alliances that facilitate binational collaboration on infectious disease, emergency preparedness, and policy development issues affecting the U.S. and México border region.



# COMMISSION MEMBERS AT A GLANCE



## COMMISSIONER

**Kathleen Sebelius**, Secretary of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

## MEMBERS

### California

**Ron Chapman, M.D., M.P.H.**, California Department of Public Health

**Lawrence Kline, D.O., F.C.C.P., F.A.C.P.**, Scripps Clinic Sleep Center

### Arizona

**Will Humble, M.P.H.**, Arizona Department of Health Services

**Emma Torres, M.S.W.**, Campesinos Sin Fronteras

**Cecilia Rosales, M.D., M.S.**, University of Arizona Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health

### New Mexico

**Catherine D. Torres, M.D.; Brad McGrath (Interim)**; New Mexico Department of Health

**Bruce D. San Filippo, M.D.**, Memorial Medical Center

### Texas

**David L. Lakey, M.D.**, Texas Department of State Health Services

**J. Manuel de la Rosa, M.D.**, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Paul L. Foster School of Medicine

**Antonio Falcon, M.D.**, Family Health Center, LLP

## COMMISSIONER

**Dr. Mercedes Juan**, Secretary of Health, México Secretariat of Health

## MEMBERS

### Baja California

**Dr. José Guadalupe Bustamante Moreno**, Baja California State Secretariat of Health

**Dr. Alfonso Valenzuela Espinoza**, Tijuana General Hospital

### Sonora

**Dr. José Jesús Bernardo Campillo García**, Sonora State Secretariat of Public Health

**Dr. Jaime León Varela**, Sonora State Secretariat of Public Health

### Chihuahua

**Dr. Sergio Leonardo Piña Marshall**, Chihuahua State Secretariat of Health

**Dr. Felipe Francisco Fornelli Lafón**, Chihuahua State Secretariat of Health

### Coahuila

**Dr. Bertha Castellanos Muñoz**, Coahuila State Secretariat of Health

**Dr. Jaime Pineda Pineda**, Coahuila State Secretariat of Health

### Nuevo León

**Dr. Jesús Zacarías Villareal Pérez**, Nuevo León State Secretariat of Health

**Dr. Dora Elia Cortés Hernández**, University of Nuevo León

### Tamaulipas

**Dr. Norberto Treviño García-Manzo**, Tamaulipas State Secretariat of Health

**Dr. Luís Fernando Garza Frausto**, Tamaulipas State Secretariat of Health

## DELEGATES

**Nils Daulaire, M.D., M.P.H.** (Delegate for Kathleen Sebelius), Office of Global Affairs, HHS

**Mauricio E. Leiva, M.Ed.** (Delegate for Dr. Chapman), Office of Binational Border Health, California Department of Public Health

**Robert Guerrero, M.B.A.** (Delegate for W. Humble), Office of Border Health, Arizona Department of Health Services

**Wally Vette; Erin Bouquin, M.D.; Paul Dulin, M.A.** (Delegates for Dr. Torres and B. McGrath), Office of Border Health, New Mexico Department of Health

**Ronald J. Dutton, Ph.D.** (Delegate for Dr. Lakey), Office of Border Health, Texas Department of State Health Services

## DELEGATES

**Dr. Maria Gudelia Rangel Gómez** (Delegate for Dr. Mercedes Juan), Comprehensive Strategy for Migrant Health, México Secretariat of Health

**Dr. José Manuel Robles Barbosa** (Delegate for Dr. Bustamante Moreno), Tijuana General Hospital, Baja California

**Dr. Adolfo Félix Loustaunau** (Delegate for Dr. Campillo García), Sonora State Secretariat of Public Health

**Dr. Beatriz Araceli Díaz** (Delegate for Dr. Piña Marshall), Autonomous University of Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua

**Dr. Marco Antonio Ruiz Pradis** (Delegate for Dr. Castellanos Muñoz), Coahuila State Secretariat of Health

**Dr. Abelardo García Cantú** (Delegate for Dr. Villareal Pérez), Nuevo León Outreach Office

**Dr. Jorge Sebastián Hernández Rodríguez** (Delegate for Dr. Treviño García-Manzo), Tamaulipas State Secretariat of Health

# U.S. Section

# México Section



## U.S.-MÉXICO BORDER HEALTH COMMISSION

As the Commission moves forward into 2013, BHC members will continue to engage public health leaders from both sides of the border to generate awareness of significant health issues and will promote sustainable partnerships to address these issues. High priority activities include increasing access to care, improving tuberculosis response and management, and promoting obesity and diabetes prevention, as well as addressing other issues that may arise.

The U.S.-México border region remains an area with significant health disparities and unique public health challenges. The BHC is fully committed to working with its partners so that all residents can enjoy optimal health and a high quality of life.

*Page 1* U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius

*Page 1* México Secretary of Health Mercedes Juan

*Page 2* Health Fair Participants, *Border Binational Health Week* (Matamoros, Tamps.)

*Page 4* BHC Committee Meeting Participants (El Paso, TX)

### **Border Binational Health Week**

*Page 9* Participants, Inaugural Ceremony (Cd. Juárez, Chih.)

*Page 10* Participants, Red Ribbon Rally Health Fair (Sunland Park, NM)

*Page 10* Participants [two photos], HidaGO KIDS Event (Hidalgo County, TX)

*Page 10* Paul Dulin, Inaugural Ceremony (Cd. Juárez, Chih.)

*Page 10* Dr. Elisa Aguilar, Inaugural Ceremony (Cd. Juárez, Chih.)

*Page 11* Participants, Closing Ceremony (Tijuana, BC)

*Page 11* Dr. Felipe Fornelli Lafón, Inaugural Ceremony (Cd. Juárez, Chih.)

### **Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Program**

*Page 12* Center for Global Health, University of Colorado School of Public Health. (n.d.). *Hispanic Mother with Child* [Image]. Retrieved from <http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/PublicHealth/research/centers/globalhealth/about/Pages/WHO-Collaborating-Center.aspx>

### **Healthy Border 2010/2020 Binational Technical Work Group (Phoenix, AZ)**

*Page 13* Allison Banicki, Jill McDonald, and Lina Balluz

*Page 13* Work Group Participants

### **New Frontiers in Global Health Leadership Forum (Tucson, AZ)**

*Page 14* Sonora Desert (Tohono O'odham Nation, AZ)

*Page 14* San Xavier Health Center Mural [two photos]

*Page 14* Forum Participants

## TITLE PAGE

The report title page is intended to reflect the multitude of elements working together to foster optimal health along the U.S.-México border. These elements not only include the Commissioners, members, delegates, and regional staff of the U.S.-México Border Health Commission, who devote time, effort, and resources to promote health and wellness throughout border communities, but also the federal, state, and local partners who work each day within these populations to facilitate connections and partnerships that can foster increased health standards and enhanced quality of life. The colors represent those of the Commission, a blending of the U.S. and México national colors that further symbolize the communication, coordination, and collaboration both countries have pledged to those living along the U.S.-México border. The most important element, however, are the circles, which signify a universal symbol depicting a shape without beginning or end, a union that marks the continual binational progress the BHC will continue to forge in support of its mission.

### **U.S.-México Border Health Research Forum (San Diego, CA)**

*Page 15* Participant Group Photo

*Page 15* Dr. Cecilia Rosales, Dr. Gudelia Rangel, and Mauricio Leiva

*Page 15* Dr. Alfonso Valenzuela Espinoza

### **U.S.-México Tuberculosis Consortium Meeting & Legal Forum (Las Cruces, NM)**

*Page 16* Mariza Zepeda Berkowitz

*Page 16* Paul Dulin

*Page 16* Ivonne Orejel

*Page 16* Juan Manuel Escalante Torres

*Page 17* Group Photo

### **Texas Obesity Mini Fora**

*Page 18* Forum Participants (McAllen, TX)

*Page 18* Staff Group Photo, Office of Border Health,  
Texas Department of State Health Services (McAllen, TX)

*Page 18* Forum Participants (Laredo, TX)

### **U.S.-México Border Binational Infectious Disease Conference (Austin, TX)**

*Page 20* Dr. Francisco Javier Navarro Gálvez

*Page 20* Dr. Ricardo Cortés

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