



**HHS/HRSA/Office of Rural Health Policy
Division of Border Health**

EPA

“Beyond Translation – Houston Forum”

**Houston, Texas
October 10-12, 2007**

Frank Cantu, Field Director

Dallas, TX

**Presented
Thursday, October 11, 2007**



Health Resources and Services Administration

- **September 1, 2007** marks the **25th Anniversary**.
- **More than 92% of health center's patients have income below 200% of the Federal poverty level.**
- **Nearly 6 million patients are uninsured.**



Health Resources and Services Administration

- **Almost two-thirds (64%) of patients are from racial or ethnic minority groups.**
- **In 2006, almost 2.6 million patients received dental services – a jump of more than 80% over the 1.4 million served in 2001, and 470,000 patients went to health centers for mental health care.**



COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

❑ FEDERAL AGENCIES

CDC, EPA, CMS, HUD

❑ PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

*RWJF, U.S.-Mexico Border Health
Commission & Association, Paso del
Norte Foundation, PAHO*

❑ STATE OFFICES OF BORDER HEALTH

❑ UNIVERSITIES

UA, TAMU, NMSU, UTEP, UTSA & Houston



Border Health Issues



Border Health Issues

- Health Risk Factors
 - Environmental exposure to pollutants
 - Asthma
 - Other Respiratory Disease
 - Skin Reactions
 - Second Hand Smoke
 - Poisons in Water, Soil and Food Chain



Border Health Issues

- Health Risk Factors
 - Poor Nutrition
 - Obesity
 - Diabetes
 - Cardiovascular Disease
 - Mental Health



Poor Infrastructure

- Limited number of health care facilities
- Many schools lack resources
- Few food markets
- Counties lack recreational facilities
- Libraries absent in many communities
- Few counties have Community Centers



Poor Air Quality



Poor Safety Standards



Poor Wastewater Treatment



Poverty Conditions



- 38% fall below 200% of poverty
- Unemployment rate is 2.5 - 3 times higher than U.S. average
- 3 of the 5 poorest cities and 4 of the 10 poorest counties in the U.S. are located in this area
- 37 of 45 counties in immediate border area are HPSAs

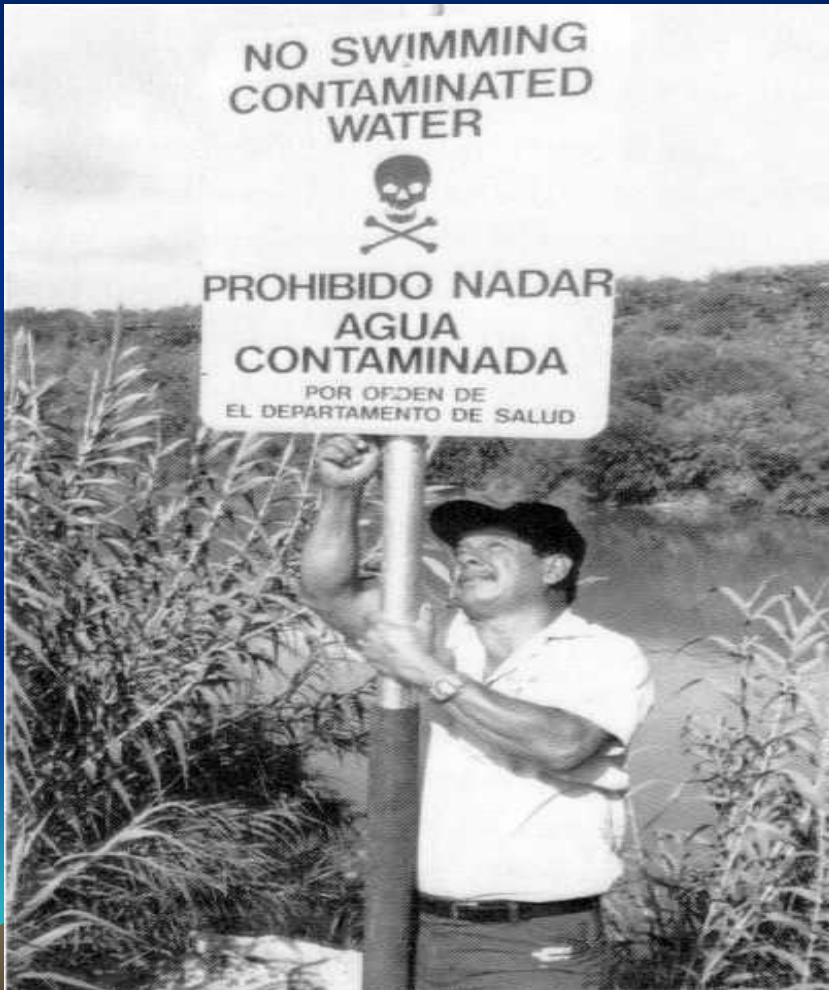


Rates of Uninsured

- Roughly 1/3 of border residents lack health insurance
- Starr County 35%
- Hidalgo County 33%
- El Paso County 31%
- Imperial County 28%



Border Health



- Hepatitis A is 4-5 times more prevalent
- Waterborne and vaccine-preventable diseases much higher (e.g. shigellosis, measles)
- Diabetes rates 2-3 times higher



Tuberculosis

- Five times more prevalent on border
- 33% of all TB cases in border states
- MDRTB



If the Border were a Separate State, it would Rank...

- Last in access to health care
- Second in death rates due to hepatitis
- Third in deaths related to diabetes
- First in the number of cases of TB
- First in school children living in poverty
- Last in per capita income



Other Federal Activity

- **Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP)**

Trilateral Workshop on Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance (EWIDS), March 7-9, 2007, El Paso, Texas

- **NIHHLBD**

Salud Par Su Corzan Outreach Project

- **EPA**

Environmental Health Conditions Assessments



Federal Activity - Cont'd

- HUD
Colonias Improvement Program
- CDC
Health Promotion Disease Presentation Project
- CDC
National Center for Health Statistics



Federal Activity - Cont'd

- **AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH & QUALITY**

- Research Agenda
- Funding for Conferences
- Quality of Care



- **HHS/ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE**

- Bioterrorism
- Public Health Emergencies





HRSA's Future Direction

- ❑ **Continue** our collaboration and coordination activities with:
 - ▶ U. S. - Mexico Border Health Commission
 - ▶ U. S. - Mexico Border Health Association
 - ▶ Pan American Health Organization

- ❑ **Continue** our emphasis on program support for the border area

- ❑ **Conducted** Border Health Research Conference in 2007 and planning a follow-up conference in 2008.



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