



Healthy Border 2010/2020 Initiative

In March of 2001, the BHC established *Healthy Border (HB) 2010* as an initiative for health promotion and disease prevention based on the following goals: 1) improve the quality of life and increase the number of years of healthy life and 2) eliminate health disparities.

Healthy Border 2010 was developed from the framework of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) *Healthy People 2010* to the needs of the U.S. border area. This approach was combined with the United States *Healthy Gente* initiative (as referred to by the U.S. and includes 25 objectives) and México's *Indicadores de Resultado* (National Health Indicators). Healthy Border 2010 was initially composed of 20 health objectives in 11 focus areas. In February 2005, the combined objective for Hepatitis A & B was separated into two, bringing the total to 21 objectives.

For the first time in the U.S.-México border region, a set of leading health indicators, which incorporated input from a broad cross-section of people from the U.S.-México border, was available to help researchers, organizations, and communities prioritize the issues and design community health programs for the border region. These health objectives were also intended to assist communities in tracking the success and progress of their actions.

Since the initial launch of HB 2010 and publication of the first HB 2010 Report, *Healthy Border 2010: An Agenda for Improving Health on the U.S.-México Border*, in 2003, the BHC has developed a comprehensive binational strategic framework, *Healthy Border 2010/2020 Strategic Framework Report* (released in November 2010), that details elements of planning, coordination, community and stakeholder input, and a proposed five-phase timeline for the closeout of Healthy Border 2010 and launch of Healthy Border 2020. Other publications to date include two midterm reports: a U.S. component, *Healthy Border 2010 Midterm Review U.S. Border Area* (published July 2009), and a México component, *Frontera Saludable 2010-Reporte de Medio Plazo-Frontera Norte de México* (published July 2010).

As part of this development, the U.S. Section has been engaged very directly in the activities of the U.S. *Healthy People 2020* initiative through its membership in the Federal Interagency Working Group (FIW) and co-chairing of the Global Health subgroup. This participation has worked to orient the BHC toward the development of a similar process for planning and carrying out the work for this next phase of the Healthy Border initiative.

Implementing *Healthy Border 2020* will involve a strong scientific team of binational experts working jointly with other border health partners to insure the best possible plan that captures the essential border health outcome and social determinant objectives for the border region. In support of this need, the BHC has established a border binational technical work group to advise the BHC on data sources, strategic approaches for promoting HB 2020, and plans for the future.

The BHC recognizes that significant and dynamic inter-relationships exist among the different levels of health determinants, which require both health and non-health sector partnerships to create a positive impact on the population's health. Non-health sector partners or non-traditional partnerships could include education, transportation, homeland security, commerce, trade, housing, labor, and environment to name a few.

A comprehensive binational strategic plan for the Joint HB 2010 Closeout Report and the initial HB 2020 Rollout Plan is expected to be completed and presented in June 2012.