The United States-México Border Health Commission (BHC), established as a binational entity in 2000 and designated as a Public International Organization by Executive Order of the President in 2004, provides leadership to optimize health and quality of life along the approximately 2,000 mile long U.S.-Mexico border. The BHC raises awareness of public health challenges faced by U.S.-Mexico border populations; creates venues and partnerships to mobilize action; serves as an effective portal for border health information; and promotes the development of community leaders to address border health issues. The U.S. and Mexican Governments provide support and management oversight for activities of the BHC.

Mission
To provide international leadership to optimize health and quality of life along the United States-México border

Goals
- Institutionalize a domestic focus on border health
- Create an effective venue for binational discussion to address public health issues and challenges affecting U.S.-México border populations

Strategic Priorities
- Access to care
- Strategic planning
- Research, data collection, and academic alliances
- Tuberculosis
- Obesity/diabetes
- Infectious disease and public health emergencies
BHC Members

- The federal secretaries of health, who serve as Commissioners
- The Chief Health Officers of the ten border states (United States: Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas; Mexico: Baja California Norte, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Tamaulipas, and Nuevo León)
- Two prominent community health professionals from each of the ten border states, who are designated by their respective governments

The Federal Component of the BHC

- The BHC receives financial support through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Mexican Secretaría de Salud (SSA).
- The Office of Global Affairs within the Office of the Secretary, HHS, Washington D.C., and the General Directorate for International Relations of the SSA in México, D.F., serve as the federal points of coordination for the BHC.

2012-2013 Key Initiatives

- Convene the first U.S.-México Border Obesity Prevention Summit to develop a border binational obesity prevention strategy
- Implement the Healthy Border2020 Strategic Plan to improve quality of life and to eliminate health disparities along the U.S.-México border
- Conduct the U.S.-México Tuberculosis (TB) Consortium to promote continuity of care of all TB patients along the U.S.-México border
- Support the third iteration of Leaders across Borders to advance binational leadership development for public health and health care professionals working in the border region
- Hold the Binational Border Health Research Work Group Meeting to identify processes for collaborative cross-border research
- Sponsor the 9th Annual Border Binational Health Week to promote sustainable partnerships that can address border health problems

For more information on the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission, please visit http://www.borderhealth.org