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

Strategic Principles
Leadership-Focus-Venue

Strategic Priorities
The priority areas for program year 2013-2014 include the following:
• Access to care
• Research, data collection, and academic alliances
• Strategic planning
• Tuberculosis
• Obesity/diabetes
• Infectious disease and public health emergencies

Strategic Actions
The following action items include various activities and product-oriented, measurable outputs planned for 2013-2014:
• Sponsor the 10th Annual Border Binational Health Week to promote borderwide sustainable partnerships that can address border health problems.
• Conduct the Border Binational Reproductive Health Summit to provide a forum that brings together researchers, practitioners, and policy leaders to advance evidence-based reproductive health practices and policies in the U.S.-México border region and discuss potential solutions that promote gender equity and reproductive health.
• Sponsor the fourth iteration of Leaders across Borders to advance binational leadership development for public health and health care professionals working to improve community health along the U.S.-México border region.
• Convene the Border Health Research Work Group to improve processes for collaborative cross-border research that can be replicated and to promote resource sharing and collaborative partnerships.
• Conduct the fifth U.S.-México Tuberculosis (TB) Consortium to support and advance the work of the U.S.-México Border TB Continuity of Care and TB Legal Issues Work Groups and the Multi-drug Resistant (MDR)-TB Expert Consultation Network by promoting continuity of care of all TB patients along the U.S.-México border; facilitating coordination of TB patient management across multi-level legal frameworks; and establishing uniform meet and greet standards and guidelines applicable to all TB patients facing deportation.
• Conduct the fourth Border Binational Infectious Disease Conference to provide a forum that brings together binational federal, state, and local partners to address critical infectious diseases and related issues impacting the U.S.-México border region.

- Conduct the Border Binational Symposium-The Power of Collaboration to provide a forum that brings together binational federal, state, and local partners and the philanthropic community to raise awareness of priority health issues along the U.S.-México border region to improve collaboration and resource sharing with the potential to improve health outcomes and access to care.

- Establish the U.S.-México Border Obesity Prevention Technical Work Group to develop a five-year strategic plan to reduce childhood obesity in the U.S.-México border region by addressing recommendations and outcomes from the 2013 Border Binational Obesity Prevention Summit.


- Continue support for the Prevention and Health Promotion among Vulnerable Populations Initiative activities identified by local and regional stakeholders that can improve access to healthcare services for vulnerable populations living along the U.S.-México border, including establishing a 2-1-1 health referral services and primary health care in rural areas of California and New Mexico.

- Establish the Community-Based Healthy Border Initiatives to conduct year-round local and regional activities and events that focus on BHC priorities.

Initiatives and Activities

The following list identifies the primary achievements of the United States-México Border Health Commission (BHC) from 2000 to the present (most recent on top):

- Sponsored the annual Border Binational Health Week to promote sustainable partnerships that can address border health problems in the U.S.-México border region (2004 to present).

- Established the Leaders across Borders binational leadership training program in 2009 with three graduations accomplished to date (2010 El Paso, Texas; 2011-Tucson, Arizona; 2013-San Diego, California). The next cohort is scheduled to graduate in October 2014.

- Sponsored the Prevention and Health Promotion among Vulnerable Populations Initiative Regional Stakeholder Meetings in 2013 (in Calexico and San Diego, California; Nogales and Yuma, Arizona; and Eagle Pass and El Paso, Texas) to convene stakeholders from various local and state agencies, organizations, universities, and education centers in each respective sub-regional outreach area on the U.S. side of the border that serve vulnerable populations who can 1) define population cohorts with limited or no access to health and human services and the barriers to access within each outreach sub-region; 2) prioritize types of health and human services that adversely affect these population cohorts; 3) identify/evaluate current health and human services referral systems and networks and document gaps in these systems; and 4) propose strategic and operational interventions.

- Established the U.S.-México Border TB Consortium in 2010 to enhance the integration of binational and borderwide efforts on mutual TB issues (sponsored meetings to date: 2010 and 2011-San Diego, California; 2012-Las Cruces, New Mexico; 2013-Las Cruces, New Mexico). The next consortium meeting is scheduled to take place in 2014 in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

- Established the U.S.-México Border Binational Infectious Disease Initiative in 2010 to document critical infectious disease issues impacting the border region (sponsored conferences to date: 2012-Austin, Texas; 2011-El Paso, Texas; 2010-San Antonio, Texas). The next conference is scheduled to take place in 2014 in El Paso, Texas.
Goals, Actions, and Accomplishments of the United States-México Border Health Commission
2000-2014

• Sponsored Obesity Mini Fora in 2012 (in Laredo, Presidio, Eagle Pass, and Brownsville, Texas) to identify interventions relevant to obesity-related issues affecting various border communities that were used to inform the development of the 2013 U.S.-México Border Obesity Prevention Summit.

• Sponsored the annual border component of National Infant Immunization Week/Vaccination Week in the Americas to promote vaccination in the U.S.-México border region (2004 to 2012).

• Supported the New Mexico-Chihuahua TB Pilot Project (2009-2012), an innovative binational project designed to improve surveillance, contact investigations, and directly-observed therapy of TB patients in the New Mexico-Chihuahua border region, focusing especially on small urban and rural areas within the Nuevo Casas Grandes Health Jurisdiction.


• Sponsored the Binational Border Health Research Work Group & Expert Panel Meetings (2012-San Diego, California; 2011-Las Cruces, New Mexico; 2010-El Paso, Texas; 2009-La Jolla, California, 2008-McAllen, Texas, 2007-El Paso, Texas) to guide the BHC’s plans and actions in its efforts to develop a comprehensive borderwide agenda for the U.S.-México border.

• Established the U.S.-México Binational Border Health Research Forum in 2006 to provide U.S. and Mexican academic and research institutions collaborative opportunities to initiate cross-border research that governments can use to establish policy (sponsored fora to date: 2012-San Diego, California; 2011-Las Cruces, New Mexico; 2009-La Jolla, California; 2006-Monterrey, Nuevo León).

• Sponsored the Binational Health Councils’ Strategic Planning Workshops to enhance the organizational capacity of binational health councils, analyze and discuss border health strategic priorities proposed in respective sister-city sub-regions, and provide a forum to present local public health recommendations to borderwide organizations that have a mandate to improve border health (2011, 2010-El Paso, Texas; 2008-San Antonio, Texas).


• Sponsored the Border Models of Excellence Initiative (2010-focus on childhood obesity and TB programs; 2003-focus on promotora programs) to recognize community-based health programs and initiatives along the U.S.-México border that have made great strides in improving community health.

• Sponsored the U.S.-México Border Child and Adolescent Forum (2009-El Paso, Texas) to address critical issues affecting children and adolescents in the border region.

• Established the Binational Border Health Research Expert Panel in 2007 to bring together selected border research partners who serve in key leadership positions within their respective institutions to advise the BHC on border health research.

• Supported the Border Influenza Surveillance Network (2007) that operated sentinel sites and weekly influenza activity reporting (including the H1N1 Pandemic) in the binational tri-state region of Southwestern New Mexico-Northern Chihuahua and West Texas. The network serves as a model for expansion throughout the border region.

• Sponsored the Binational Pandemic Avian Flu Forum (2006-Hermosillo, Sonora) to promote coordinated actions related to binational pandemic influenza planning which set the state for the Binational Pandemic Avian Flu Table Top Exercise (2007-San Diego, California), the final installment of a two-phase binational influenza initiative.
Sponsored the Binational TB Card Pilot Project in 2003, a critical step in responding to the TB health crisis in the U.S.-México border region.

Proposed establishment of the U.S.-border states and México Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance in 2003, a project designed to improve the ability to rapidly detect, identify, and report infectious disease outbreaks.

Sponsored the Ventanillas de Salud (VDS) Pilot Project in 2003 by establishing VDS centers in three Mexican consulates along the border that focused on providing information and referral services. To date, the Mexican Secretariats of Health and Foreign Relations have expanded the VDS program to 50 Mexican consulates in the United States.

Sponsored youth focus groups in support of developing an obesity and diabetes prevention multi-media campaign.

Established state outreach offices in each of the ten U.S.-México border states (2000).

Publications

Proceedings Reports

• U.S.-México Border Child and Adolescent Health Forum (2009)

Topic Briefs

• The U.S.-México Border Health Commission and Promotores (2012)
• Healthy Border 2010/2020 Initiative (2011)
• United States-México Binational Coordination in Epidemiological Surveillance, Reporting and Response (2009)
• United States-México Cross-Border Pilot Project (2009)
• Health Care Reform: Border Challenges and Opportunities (2009)

White Papers

• Binational Collaboration and Infectious Disease Surveillance along the U.S.-México Border (2011)
• Health Disparities and the U.S.-México Border: Challenges and Opportunities (2010)
• Childhood Obesity and the U.S.-México Border (2009)
• Tuberculosis along the U.S.-México Border (2009)
• U.S. Border States Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance Project (2009)
Other Publications

- Newsletters (2003-2013)
- Annual Reports (2001-2013)
- Frontera Saludable: Reporte de Medio Plazo (2010)
- Situación de la Tuberculosis en la Frontera México-Estados Unidos (2010)
- Frontera Saludable: Reporte de Medio Plazo (2010)
- Situación de la Tuberculosis en la Frontera México-Estados Unidos (2010)
- Border Health Research Background (2009)