U.S./Mexico Border Health Informatics:

What Are the Issues?
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U.S./Mexico Border

- 2,000 miles from Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean
- Residence for over 9 million people
Border Conditions
U.S. Side

• 350,000 people living without public drinking water or wastewater systems

• Unemployment rates 250-300% higher than in the rest of the U.S.
Border Conditions
Mexican Side

- Poverty...
- Migration of undocumented workers...
- Maquiladora economy...
Border Health Issues

- Overall health conditions resembling “Third World”
- Access and utilization of health care services a significant problem
Border Health Issues
Communicable Diseases

- Hepatitis A three times more prevalent than in the U.S. as a whole
- TB rates twice the national average
- High incidences of water borne diseases, such as shigellosis
**Border Health Issues**

**Non-Communicable Diseases**

- High incidence of diabetes among Mexican-Americans, over 50 percent of border population
- Illness is controlled through early intervention and *consistent* health care
Border Health Issues

Other Conditions

- Cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease
- Malignant neoplasms
- Environmental and occupational
- Unintentional injuries
- Infant mortality
- Parasites
Public Health Concerns

- Rapid population growth
- Industrialization of region
- Lower age-specific death rates
- High rate of immigration
- Environmental contamination
Border Health Research

- Examines complex political, economic, and socio-cultural factors that impact health status, and access to and utilization of health services
Border Health Information Resources

- AHS Library “Border Health” Medical Topics A-Z Web site:
  http://www.ahsl.arizona.edu/guides/topics/borderhealth.cfm

  PAHO’s Mortality Profiles of the Sister Communities on the U.S.-Mexico Border:
  http://www.paho.org/English/SHA/mortprofiles-usmb.pdf
Border Health
Information Resources

- BIREME’s Virtual Health Library:
  [http://www.bireme.br/bvs/l/ihome.htm](http://www.bireme.br/bvs/l/ihome.htm)
- LILACS - Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences database [from BIREME site]
- DeCS [“Spanish MeSH”, also from BIREME]
  [http://www.bireme.br/decs/I/homepagei.htm](http://www.bireme.br/decs/I/homepagei.htm)
Border Health
Information Resources

- HRSA's U.S./Mexico Border Health Home Page - http://bphc.hrsa.gov/borderhealth/
- Mexico Secretary of Health - http://cenids.ssa.gob.mx/
In August 1999, the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Health Professions awarded The University of Arizona, Health Sciences Center (AHSC) - College of Medicine and Mexican American Studies and Research Center (MASRC) a three-year, $1.2 Million grant to create an Arizona Hispanic Center of Excellence (AHCOE).

Includes links to AHS Library’s “Border Health” Web site

http://www.hispanichealth.arizona.edu
Arizona Hispanic Center of Excellence

- Objectives:
  - Promote awareness of Hispanic health and cultural issues
  - Support original research
  - Direct attention to unique problems of the border
AHCOE / AHSL Partnership

- Coordinated between UA “Main” and AHSL libraries
- Audit of collection resources
- Informational support delivered through “Border Health” Web site
- Ongoing instruction and outreach
- AHCOE student-worker at AHSL
AHCOE / AHSL
Partnership

• Border Academy, July 2001
  – McAllen, TX
  – Instruction in researching border health issues
  – Evidence-based medicine component
AHCOE / AHSL Partnership

- Model of collaboration for extending and enhancing access to ethnic and region-specific informational resources and services
¡Gracias por su atención! Thank you for your attention!

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