

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Border Indicators Task Force

**Environmental Health Work Group Meeting
Brownsville, Texas – March 16-17, 2006**

Iris Jimenez

BITF-EHWG Goals



Border Indicators Task Force mandate:

- “Measure program progress through development of environmental and public-health based indicators.”
- Indicators will be developed and used to measure real and meaningful results.
- “These indicators will have specific definitions and protocols for collection, analysis, interpretation and quality control.”

Environmental Health Workgroup Goals:

- “Evaluate various measures of respiratory health / gastrointestinal illness in children that might be tracked to assess changes that may result from actions to improve air / water quality in border communities”

Reference: “Border 2012: US-Mexico Environmental Program” (EPA-160-R-03-001)

Update on Work

Strategy for Indicator Development

- BITF – EHWG effort to provide a foundation for the identification, development, and use of a basic set of indicators for the Border 2012 program
 - Indicator Terminology, Conceptual Framework, Selection Criteria
- In progress: Spanish Translation and Report cover page
- To be released at the National Coordinators Meeting in April 2006

Initial Binational Set of Indicators

- Concurrence on initial set in late Sept. 2005
- Placeholder EH indicators

Update on Work (cont.)

State of the Border Region Indicators Report 2005

- **Purpose:** Inform communities and stakeholders of the border region about the state of the environment and progress made to address the six goals of the Border 2012 program
- Initial report that presents available information on a limited number of indicators, representing specific objectives under each goal.
- Environmental Health information is incorporated in the corresponding media and program sections.
- Reconciling comments to send report to independent peer reviewers prior to the NCM

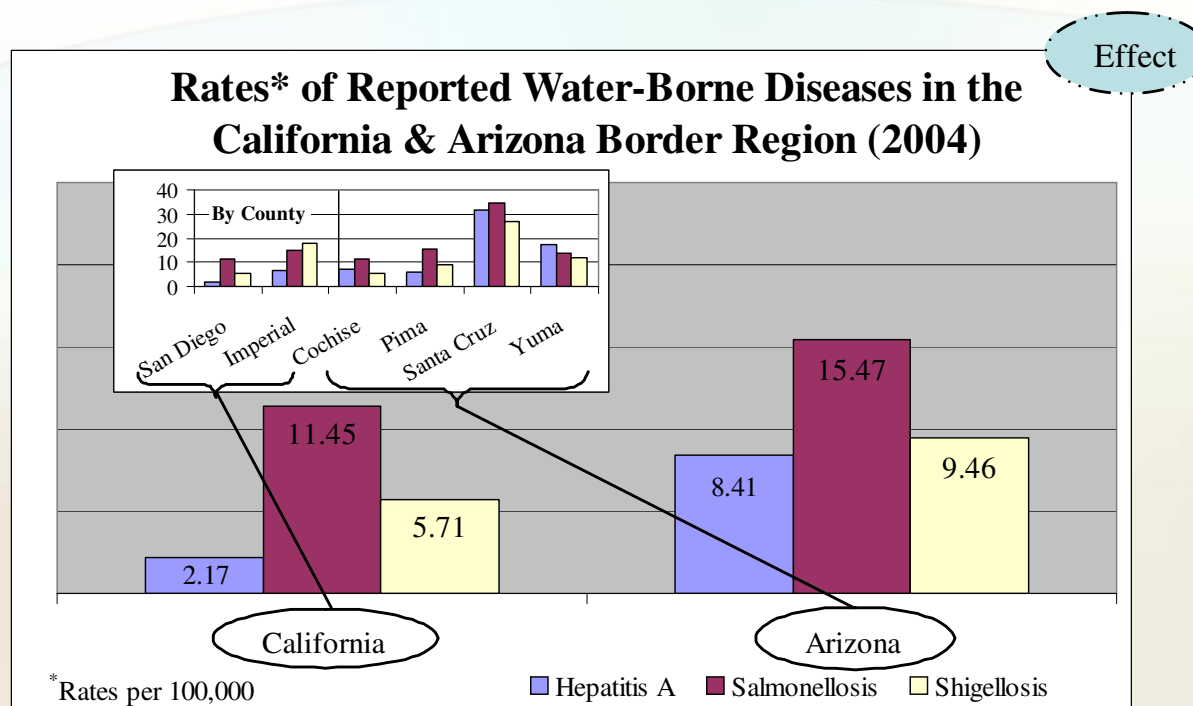
Environmental Health Indicators

- Superficial analysis of the Air and Water database inventory led to the identification of potential comparable data
- The following indicators were developed for the initial report:

- **Rates of Reported Water-Borne Diseases in the California & Arizona Border Region (2004)**
 - Hepatitis A, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis
- **Physician Diagnosed Asthma (2001)**
 - Small study sample of 37 children: 6-7 and 13-14 year olds
- **Amount of Pesticide Use in the US-Mexico Border Region (2002-2003)**
- **Number of Farmworkers Trained in Safe Pesticide Use in the US Side of the Border Region (2003-2005)**
- **Cumulative Total Number of Farmworkers Trained in Safe Pesticide Use in the US-Mexico Border Region (2003-2005)**

Environmental Health - Water

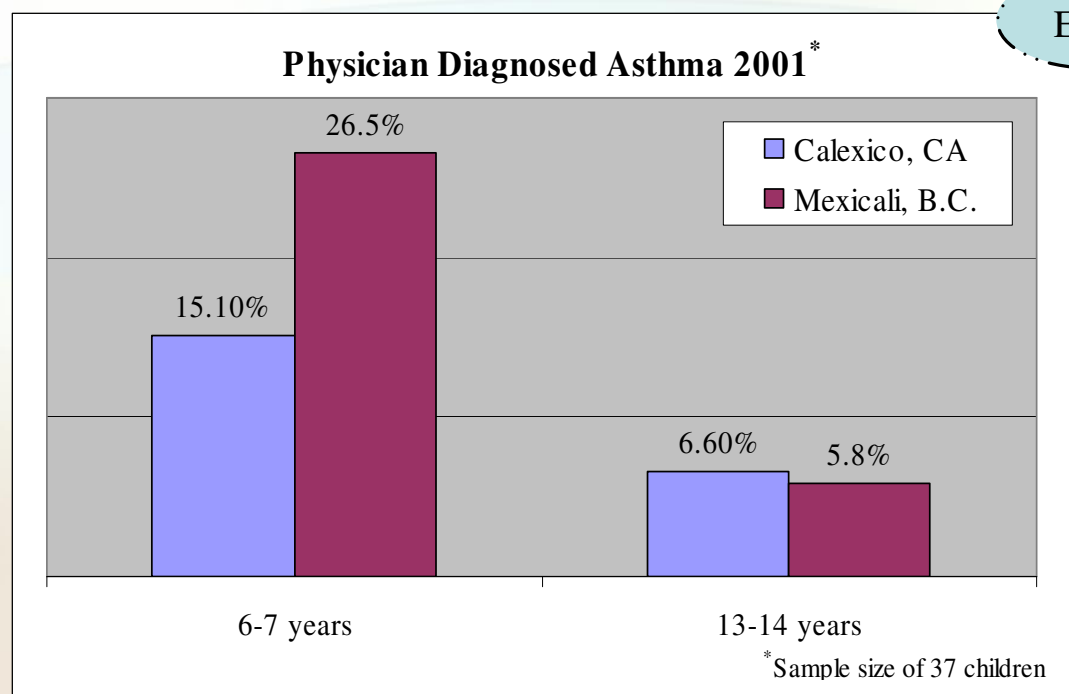
- **Rates of Reported Water-Borne Diseases in the California & Arizona Border Region (2004)**
Hepatitis A, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis



Sources: www.azdhs.gov/phs/oids/stats/pdf/t1cases_by_county2004.pdf,
www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/html/cdtables.htm,
<http://borderhealth.cr.usgs.gov/datatables.html>.

Environmental Health - Air

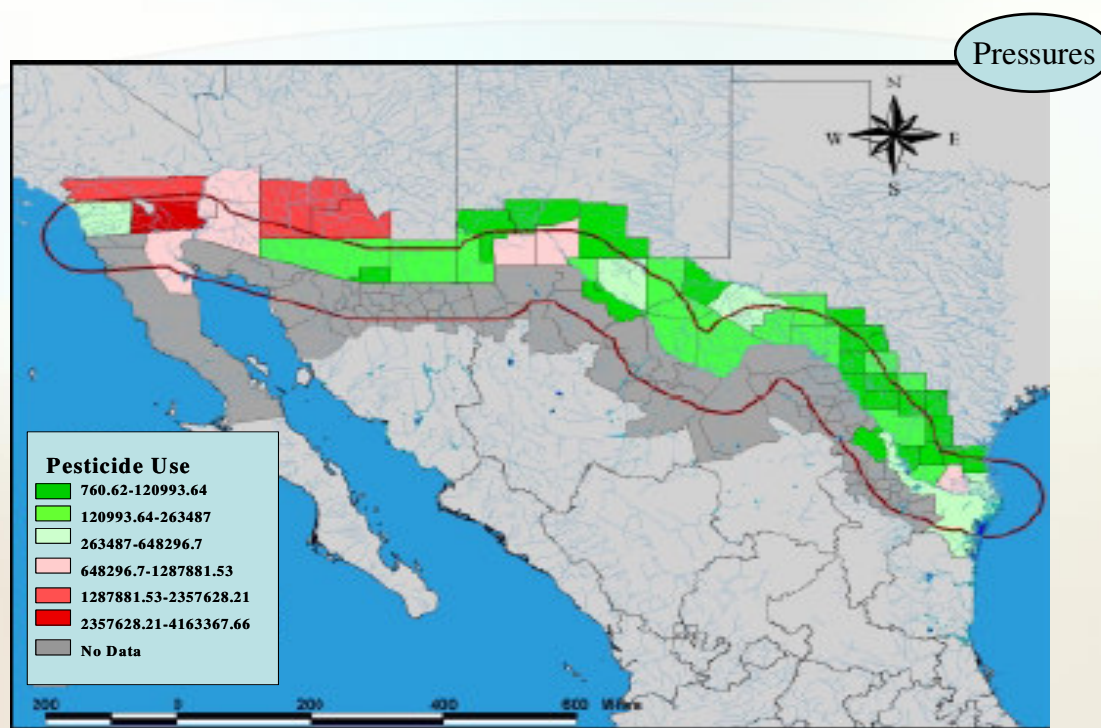
- **Physician Diagnosed Asthma (2001)**
Small study sample of 37 children: 6-7 and 13-14 year olds



Source: Department of Health and Human Services. 2001. *U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Health Surveillance Demonstrations Phase Two*. September 2001.

Environmental Health – Pesticides

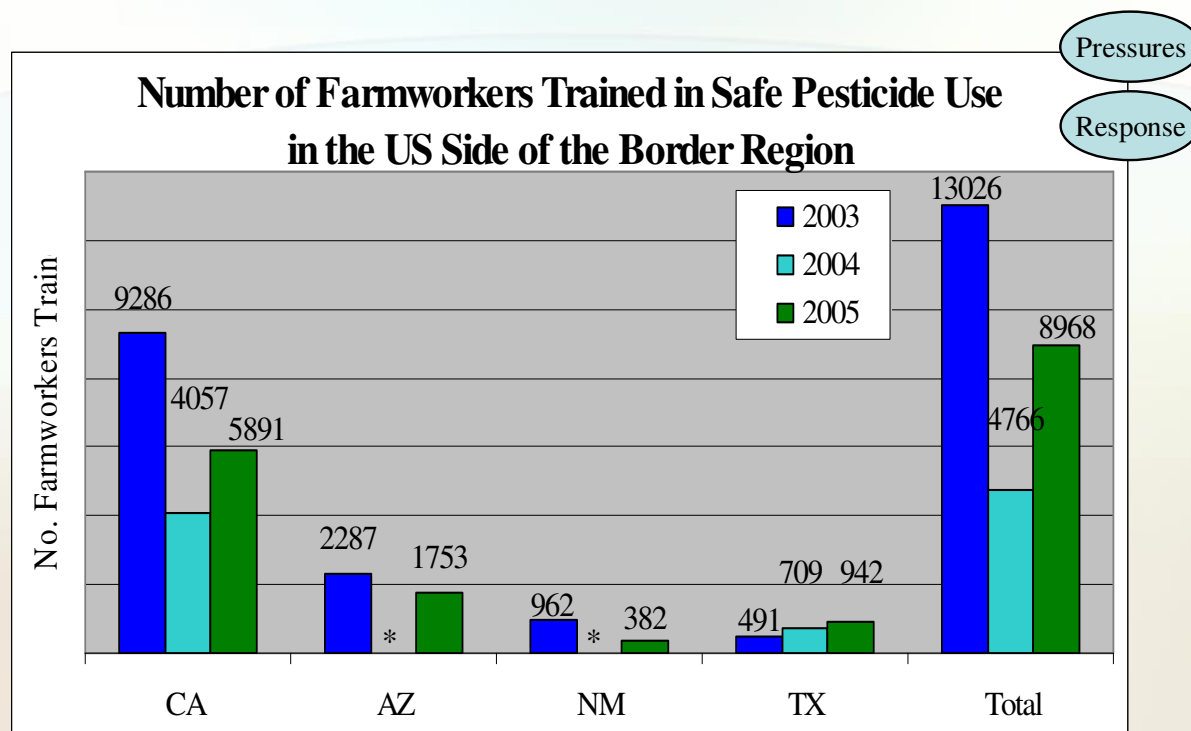
- Amount of Pesticide Use in the US-Mexico Border Region (2002-2003)



Source: Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Final Report Inventory of Agricultural Pesticides Used In The United States - Mexico Border Region. U.S.-Mexico Border Field Office.

Environmental Health – Pesticides

- **Number of Farmworkers Trained in Safe Pesticide Use in the US Side of the Border Region (2003-2005)**

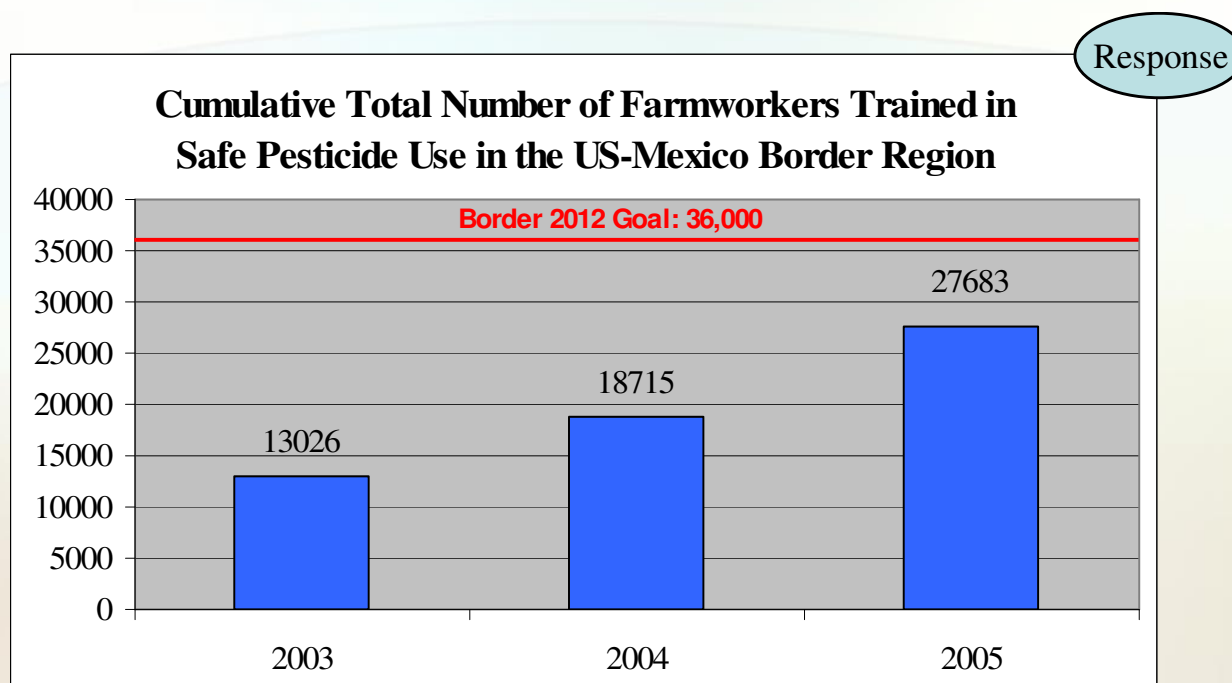


* Data not reported for that year (2004 in AZ and NM)

Source: Data for CA, AZ, & NM from AFOP/AmeriCorps, including Proteus data.
Data for TX provided by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Environmental Health – Pesticides

- **Cumulative Total Number of Farmworkers Trained in Safe Pesticide Use in the US-Mexico Border Region (2003-2005)**



Source: Data for CA, AZ, & NM from AFOP/AmeriCorps, including Proteus data; Data for TX from the Texas Department of Agriculture; Data for BC from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Challenges for Developing Indicators

- **Reaching agreement of all stakeholders**
- **Serving both technical and community audiences**
- **Balancing environmental and performance objectives**
- **Varying national processes for indicator development, management and dissemination**
- **Lacking a structured indicator identification and review process**

Challenges for EH Indicators

- **Policy/legal constraints on data sharing**
- **Comparability of US and Mexican data**
- **Obtaining health data/ reportability**
- **Limited cities with both environmental and health data**
- **Temporal and spatial concordance between monitoring and surveillance databases**
- **Potential to maintain resources for long-term projects (pre-, post- studies)**

Improving EH Indicators

EHWG

- **Identify comparable data sources**
- **Propose better indicators**
 - **Draft graphics, data and description**
- **Continue to provide input to the BITF**

BITF

- **Assist with the development of the indicators**
- **Foster communication between coordinating bodies**

*How do we make Environmental
Health Indicators more robust?*

Near term Priorities

- **Complete reconciliation of comments**
- **Peer review to verify report accuracy**
- **Report translation**
- **Format and layout**
- **Present the Indicators Report at the National Coordinators Meeting**
- **Release the Strategy for Indicator Development at the NCM**

Future Priorities

- **Annual BITF meeting in fall 2006**
- **Present indicators electronically**
- **Pursue remote sensing/ GIS options to present data**
- **Improve and expand upon these indicators to develop a more comprehensive and robust report for the Program's mid-term in 2007**

Thank You!

For further information, please contact

Mexico

Arturo Flores (55) 5490 0983 afloresm@semarnat.gob.mx

Iris Jimenez (55) 5628-0865 iris.jimenez@semarnat.gob.mx

US

Steve Young (202) 566- 0608 young.steve@epa.gov

Sandra Duque (202) 566-1810 duque.sandra@epa.gov