

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



*Environmental Health in the
United States - Mexico Border and
U.S. - Mexico Border Health Commission Priorities*

*Environmental Health Work Group and
Border Indicators Task Force Meeting*

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Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua

February 2, 2005

Background

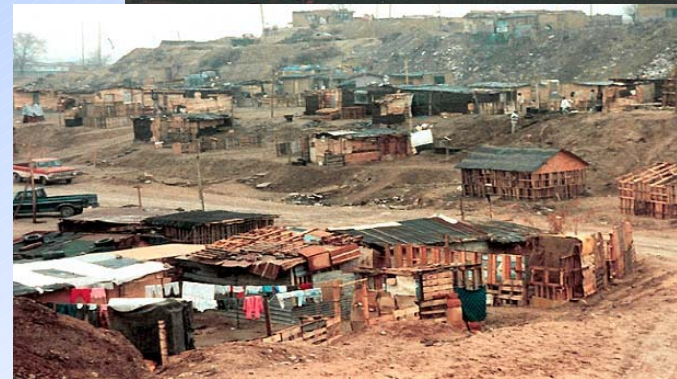
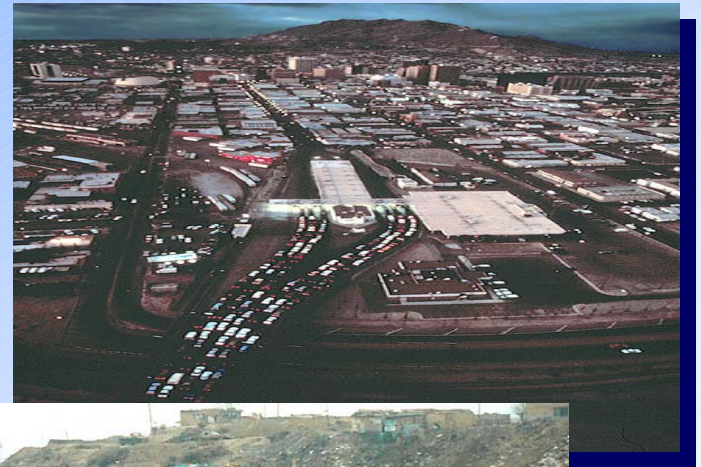
Border people and environmental health problems

- ✓ 13 million people reside in the U.S. – Mexico border;
- ✓ 14 pairs of independent sister cities contain 90% of the border population;
- ✓ These geographic-socioeconomic units share natural resources like water and air; and
- ✓ Disproportion poverty and disease.



Consequences of United States - Mexico Border Region Growth

- ✓ Greater demand for water, land, and energy;
- ✓ Increase with the use of fuel;
- ✓ Increased waste generation;
- ✓ Increase with the release of environmental pollutants; and
- ✓ Establishment of population settlements lacking essential public services.



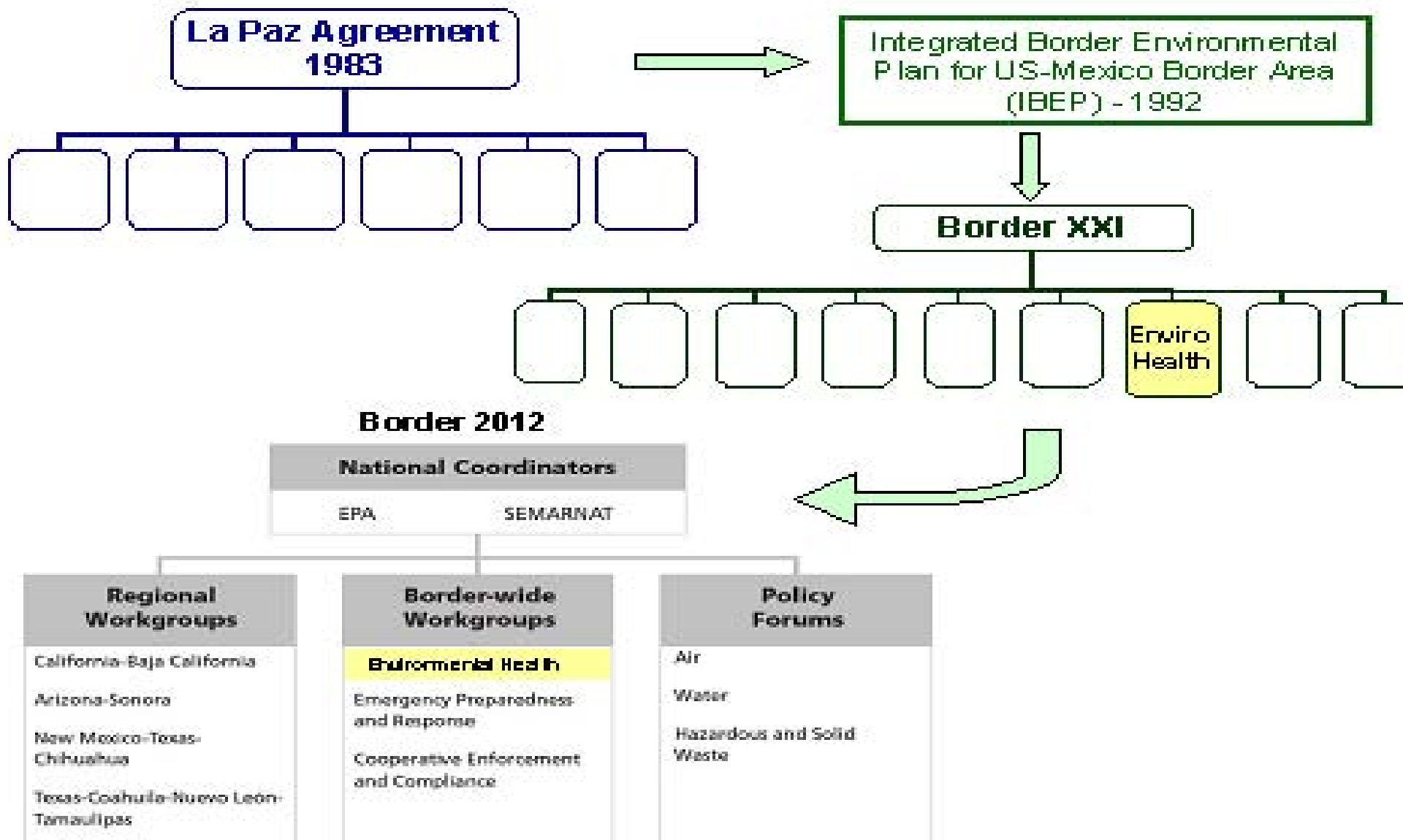
Health Impact of Region Growth

Excess burden of environmental health problems

- ✓ Water-borne diseases;
- ✓ Respiratory problems; and
- ✓ Other health effects from excessive exposure to toxic substances such as pesticides and lead.



Border Binational Efforts to Respond to Environmental Challenges



Border Binational Efforts to Respond to Environmental Challenges

COLONIAS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT STATUS

State	Project Phase	Number of Projects	Construction Commitment (\$M)	Number of Colonias	Population Benefitting
Texas	Completed	44	168	243	104,400
	Under Construction	14	158	202	67,000
	Design	22	205	362	76,000
	Planning	16	27	56	15,000
	Total	96	559	863	247,000
New Mexico	Completed	6	7.84	8	5,670
	Under Construction	3	7.84	3	6,150
	Design	4	4.88	3	6,680
	Total	13	20.56	14	18,500

Note: These appropriations include funds from EPA, NADEK and TWDB.



Commission's History

- ✓ 1988-1994: Intense border, States, and American Medical Association advocacy and legislative efforts;
- ✓ 1994-Commission has its origins in Public Law 103-400. Authorized the President to enter into an agreement with Mexico;
- ✓ July 2000-Signing of the International Agreement creates the Commission; and
- ✓ November 2000-Commission held its 1st Binational Meeting.



Purpose

- ✓ To identify and evaluate current and future health problems affecting the population in the United States-Mexico border area.
- ✓ To encourage and facilitate actions to address these problems.

Goals

- ✓ To institutionalize a domestic focus on border health which would transcend political changes
- ✓ To create an effective venue for binational discussion to address public health issues and problems



Roles

- ✓ Promote social and community participation;
- ✓ Act as a catalyst for needed change;
- ✓ Act as a policy advocate;
- ✓ Increase resources for the border;
- ✓ Encourage self-responsibility for health; and
- ✓ Facilitate Border Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance Project

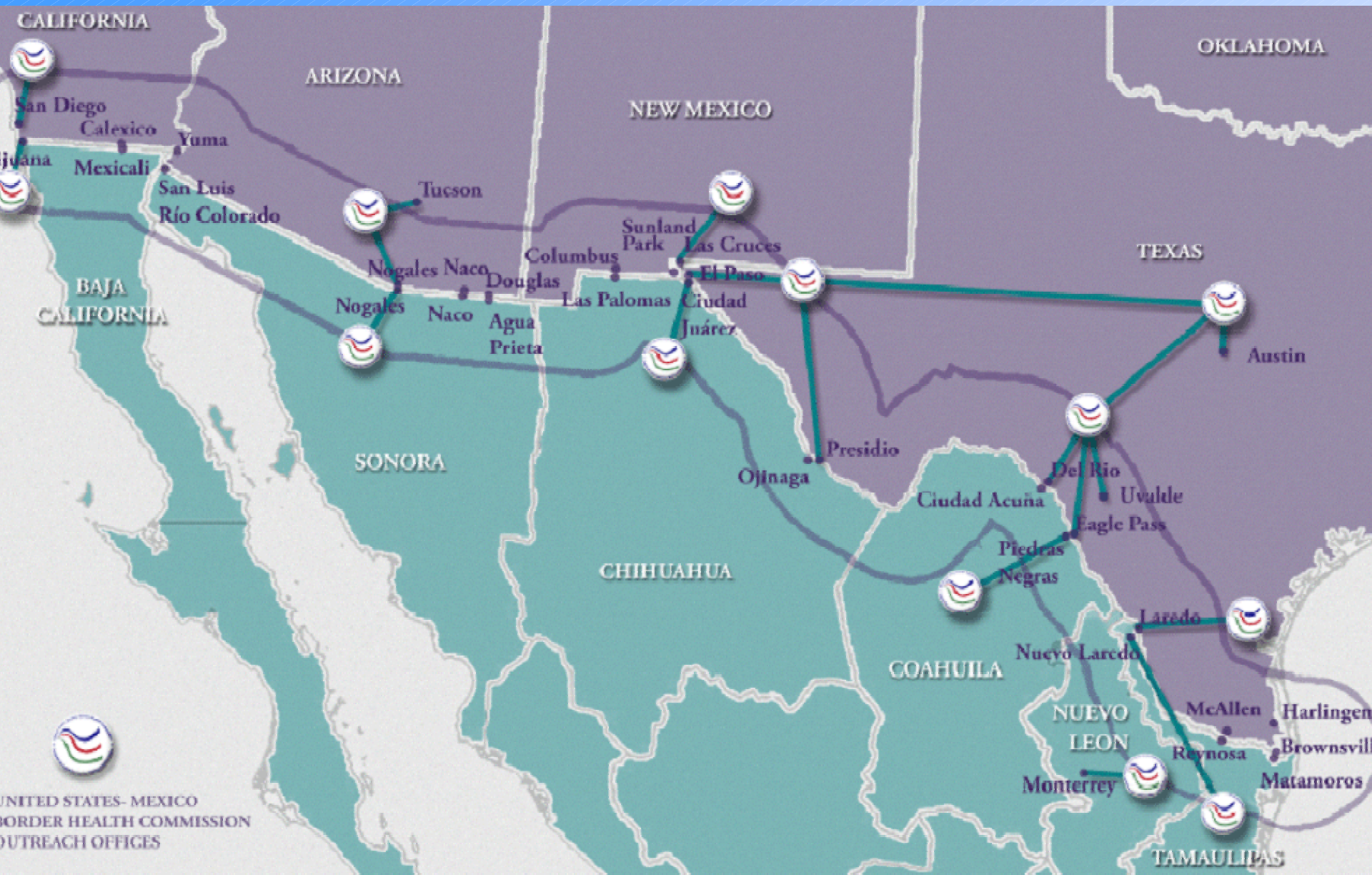


Composition and Structure

- ✓ Two nations
- ✓ Ten border states
- ✓ 44 counties and 80 municipalities
- ✓ 14 pairs of sister cities
- ✓ Public International Organization
- ✓ United States and Mexico Sections
- ✓ 26 Commission Members and three standing committees
- ✓ U.S. Inter Agency Border Action Team



Commission Outreach Offices (OROs)



Border Models of Excellence



UNITED STATES-MEXICO
COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS
BORDER MODELS OF EXCELLENCE

Transfer/Replication Strategy



Environmental
Health Education Model
Southern Doña Ana County, New Mexico

2004

The Environmental Health Education Model was designed to give Doña Ana County residents an opportunity to have their homes checked for environmental and safety hazards.

To download a copy, please visit

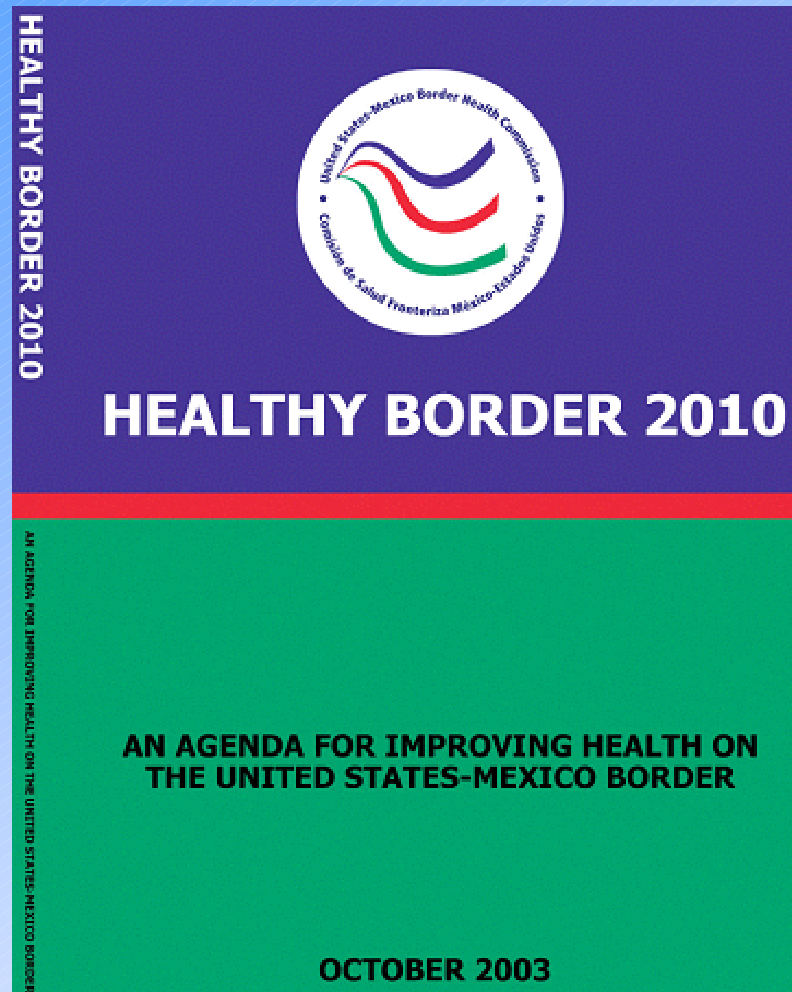
www.borderhealth.org



Success Stories



Our Program



To download a copy, please visit us at

www.borderhealth.org



U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission

Healthy Border 2010 Program Goals and Strategies

Overarching Goals

1. Improve the quality and increase the years of healthy life
2. Eliminate health disparities

Environmental Health Program Goals

➤ Environmental Health

- ✓ Improve household access to sewage disposal
- ✓ Reduce hospital admissions for acute pesticide poisoning

➤ Respiratory Diseases

- ✓ Reduce the rate of hospitalization for asthma



USMBHC Environmental Health Priorities and Strategies

Some Reflections

- ✓ Life expectancy in the United States has increase 40 years;
- ✓ 33 of the 40 added years are due to improved prevention and environmental conditions;
- ✓ Increased concentration of Hispanic / Latino descendent populations; and
- ✓ Healthy communities design.



Increased access to information on:

- ✓ Health events: asthma and acute pesticide hospitalizations
- ✓ Health determinants: number of households not connected to sewage systems, environmental indicators of air and water quality
- ✓ Effective interventions to promote healthy communities
- ✓ Local successful experiences and programs
- ✓ Resources and funding opportunities

Increased collaboration and coordination to:

- ✓ Promote awareness
- ✓ Share and increase use of regional and local resources / capacity
- ✓ Leverage resources and expertise

Challenges:

- ✓ Information and resources are most needed at the local and regional levels



Information Sharing at All Levels Commission's Mapping Service

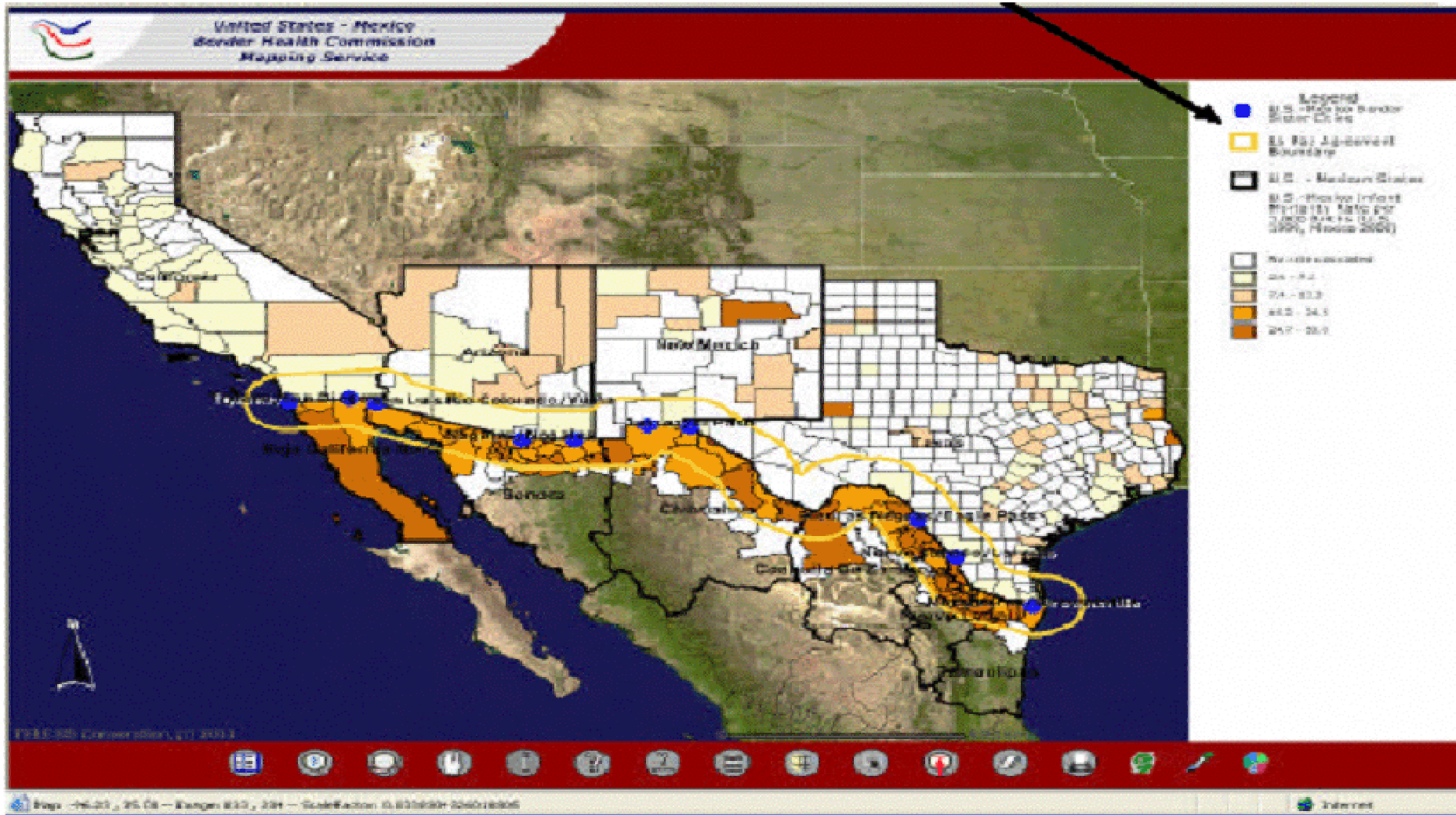


Figure 10. Map with legend showing visible layers and low to high value ranges for infant mortality rates. In general, darker colors represent larger values, and vice versa.

Alliance

The EHWG could serve as the lead technician group to achieve Healthy Border 2010 environmental health goals

Examples of Benefits for the Commission

- ✓ Provide ready access to EHWG network of partners with attendant expertise and training and often, already ongoing programs.
- ✓ Collaborate with the border-wide workgroup that bridges the environmental and health agencies in facilitating collaborations, data sharing and joint problem solving
- ✓ Leverage resources



Alliance

The EHWG could serve as the lead technician group to achieve Healthy Border 2010 environmental health goals

Examples of Benefits for the EHWG

- ✓ Greatly strengthen role / visibility of health in Border 2012 Program
- ✓ Places environmental health in broader context of public health
- ✓ Facilitates representation of health officials at regional meetings
- ✓ Enhances likelihood of true binational partnering and participation
- ✓ Leverage resources and expertise



“Our challenge is to have a border, a world of order, characterized by peace and prosperity in the midst of diversity.”



Thank you for all that you do –
Gracias por todo lo que hacen

For more information:

www.borderhealth.org

www.saludfronteriza.org

