US-MEXICO BORDER HEALTH COMISSION

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WORKGROUP MEETING

Brownsville, Texas

March 16-17,2006

Photo: National Geography 1997

- ✓ **Close to 13 million inhabitants**
- ✓ **Dangerous territory, heavily fortified and certainly the busiest border**
- ✓ **400 million legal border north-bound crossings annually (1998)**
- ✓ **Terrorism and significant public health threats**

If the U.S.-Mexico Border were a separate state, it would rank…

- ✓ Last in access to health care;
- ✓ Second in death rates due to hepatitis;
- ✓ Third in deaths related to diabetes;
- ✓ First in the number of cases of TB;
- ✓ First in school children living in poverty; and
- ✓ Last in per capita income.

Texas Controller Report 2000

USMBHC

US Congress passed Public **Law 103-400** which authorized the US President to enter into an agreement with Mexico to establish this commission which was created **in July of 2000.** The law refers to the **assisting in the coordination and implementation of efforts of public and private entitites to prevent and resolve health problems and potential health problems**.

USMBHC

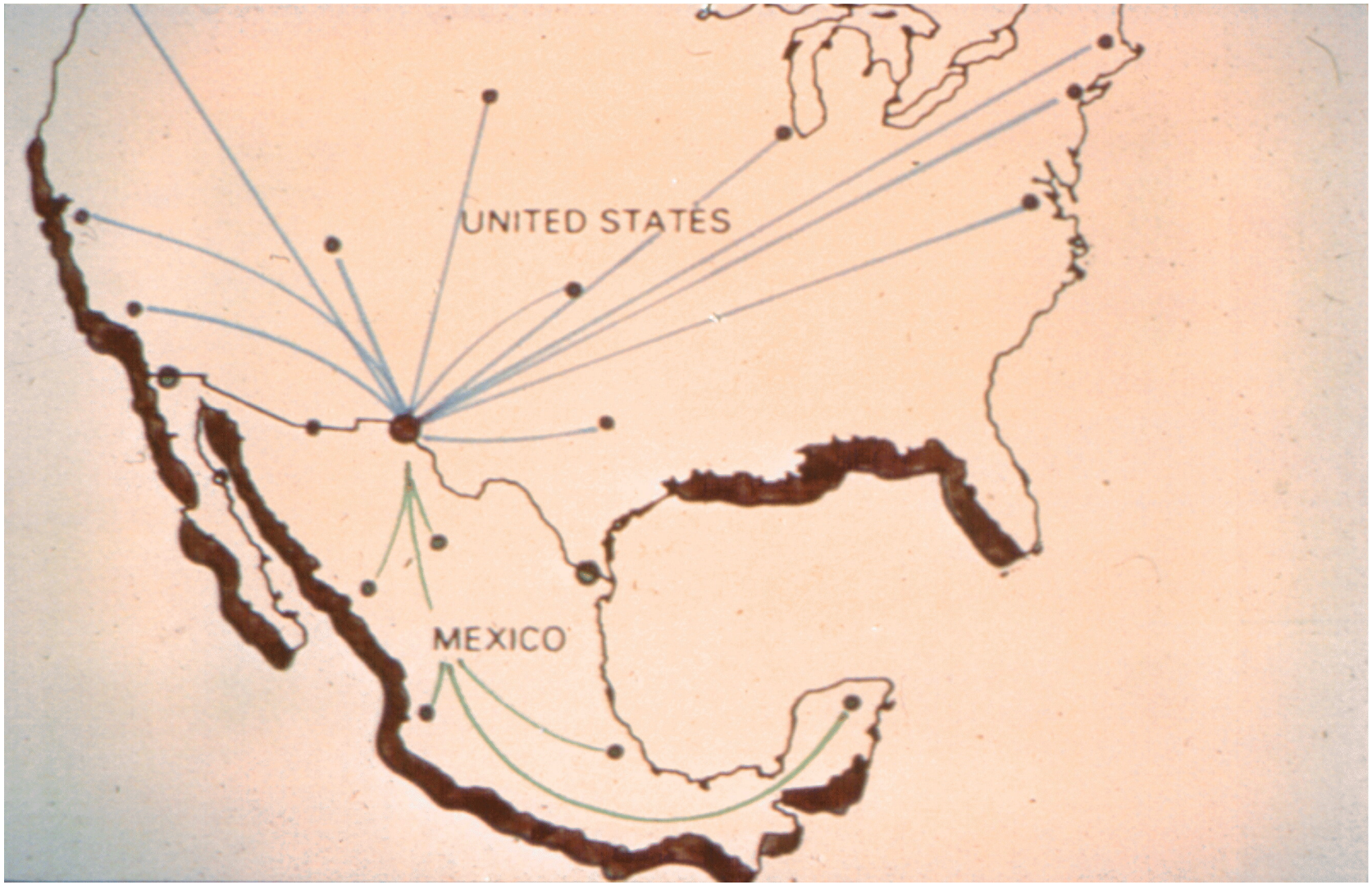
COMISIÓN DE SALUD FRONTERIZA MÉXICO - ESTADOS UNIDOS
4ª Reunión Anual Binacional

Mission

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

Composition and Structure

- ✓ Two soverign nations
- ✓ Ten border states
- ✓ 44 counties and 80 municipalities
- ✓ 14 pairs of sister cities
- ✓ Public International organization
- ✓ 26 Commission Members, two sections and three standing committees
- ✓ Inter Agency Border Action Team


UNITED STATES
MEXICO

The “C” Words from
Dr. Eduardo Sanchez

- Commitment – people & govts
- Cooperation – USMBHC is model
- Collaboration – USMBHC is a facilitator of entitites
- Co-responsibility – We take responsibility for our actions

Completion

- 2010 Health Border Goals
- TB Card Pilot Project
- Models of Excellence
- Ventanilla de Salud
- EWIDS
- Many other programs and projects published in our annual report

USMBHC Wash DC 2005 Recent

Recent

- Mary Lou Valdez (Sec Leavitts delegate)
  - Conference Call on Lead in candy
    - Border State Health Officers
    - Convened a meeting in El Paso
    - FDA, CDC, Consumer Product Safety Commission
    - Results to be shared when finalized

Recent

- Enhancements of Commission Website
  - Roster of Organizations active in Border Health
  - Comprehensive Calender
  - Links to Border Health Research
  - Active Border News
  - ? Collaborate with US Mex Border Binational Health eGroup

Recent

- Development of US Mexican Information Platform
  - Further develop role of a reliable focal point of information and statistics.
  - When operational it will serve as a user friendly on line database.

Healthy Border 2010 Agenda

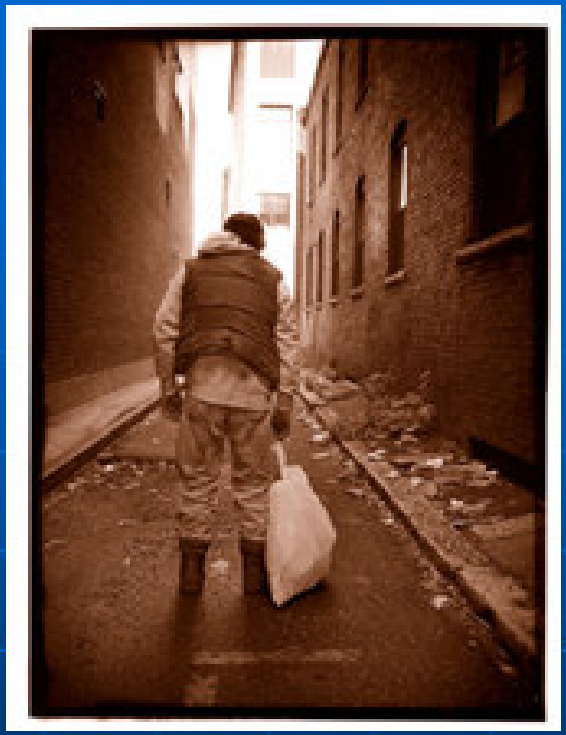
- ✓ Access to Care
- ✓ Cancer
- ✓ Diabetes
- ✓ Environmental Health
- ✓ HIV/AIDS
- ✓ Immunization
- ✓ Infectious Diseases
- ✓ Tuberculosis
- ✓ Injury Prevention
- ✓ Maternal, Infant and Child Health
- ✓ Mental Health
- ✓ Oral Health
- ✓ Respiratory Diseases
- ✓ Terrorism Preparedness *

* *Developmental theme*

BINATIONAL AGENDA
Healthy Border 2010 Program

- 20 health objectives, 11 focus areas
- Environmental Health
  - Improve households access to sewage disposal
  - Reduce hospital admissions for acute pesticide poisoning

- Despite Challenges
- There are opportunities which continue to benefit from committed people, who cooperate collaborate and take responsibility.
- Thank you.



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