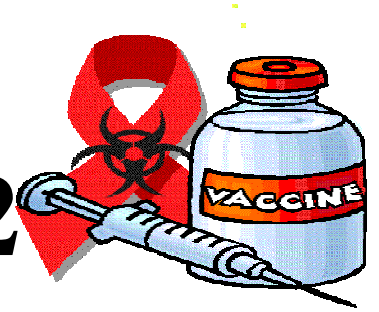




**U.S. Mexico Border 2012**



**Texas, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas**

**Environmental Health,  
Environmental Education and  
Emergency Response**

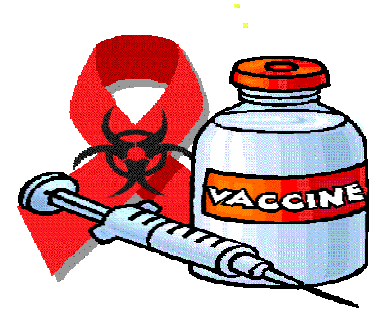
**Héctor F. González, M.D., M.P.H.**

**Waldo Lopez, MPH, RS**



# Meetings Held:

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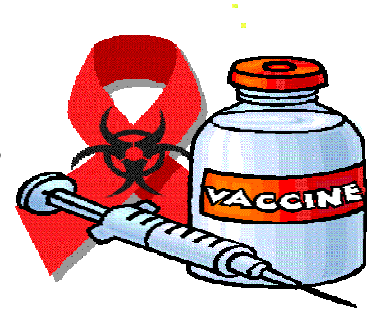


- Laredo/Nuevo Laredo
- San Antonio
- Matamoros
- Eagle Pass
- Reynosa
- El Paso
- Juarez
- Monterrey



## Regional Demographics of Border Communities in this region:

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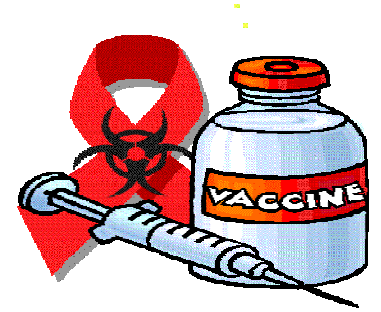


- Population- 75,000 – 300,000 - Increase daily by 50,000 - 100,000
- All Sister Cities in Mexico are larger
- Age - 40-50% is less than 18 years old
- 40% of nations commerce' (Laredo)
- 11,000 Commercial trucks (Laredo)



# Environmental Challenges

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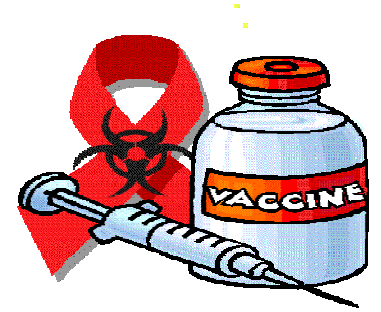


- Water Pollution
- Air Contaminants
- Car Tire Problem
- Pesticides
- Over 2000 Warehouses (hazardous material)
- Railways
- Appropriate health care for environmental exposure
- Appropriate emergency response to environmental contamination



## Co-Morbidities that Enhance Environmental Risks

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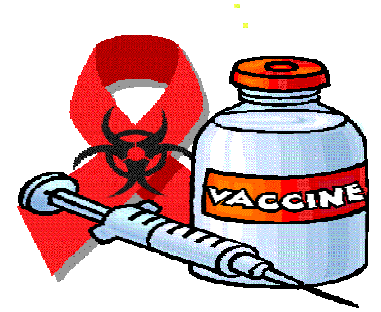


- Access to Health Care, Health Professions Shortage Area
- Some don't have Community Hospital, >50%=Uninsured
- Infectious Disease (TB, Hepatitis, Emerging and New– WNV, environmental contaminants)
- Vulnerable Populations



# Water/Pesticides

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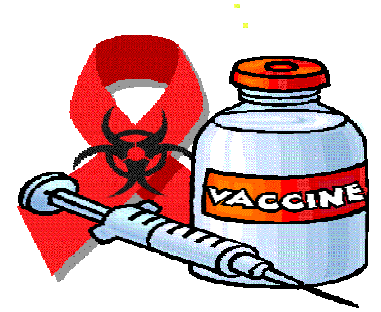


- Inadequate filtering, and treatment plants, Arsenic, Haloacetic acids, Trihalomethane
- Sewage treatment and waste water re use
- Recognition of Pesticide Poisoning- Binational
- Training of Providers
- Promotion and Education of Community
- Poison Control



# Capacity Building

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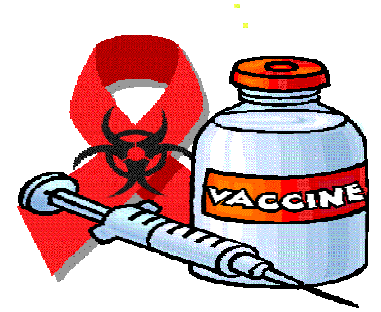


- Environmental Health Training
- Post Graduate Education
- Technological Challenge
- Community Awareness
- Provider Training

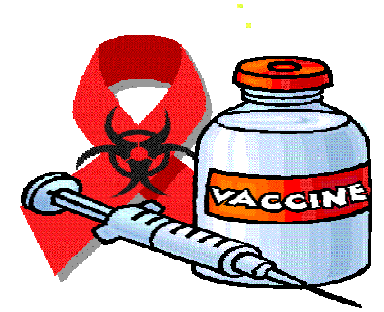


# Projects

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- Environmental Health Prevention and Control- \$70 Laredo
- Environmental Health and chemical exposure training of physicians and other providers (75,000)
- Environmental Education (25,000)
- Emergency response training (25,000)



## Efforts To Date

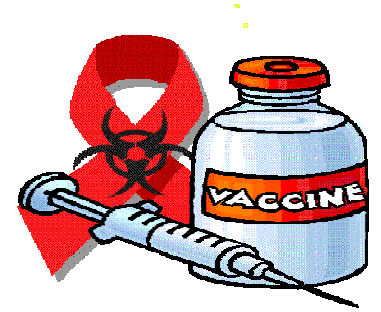
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- Environmental Health Assessment Projects
- Los Dos Laredos Environmental Health Workgroup
- Binational Advance Public Health Preparedness Response
- Cash for Tires
- Environmental Education (Schools and Community)
- Joint Hazardous Material and Emergency Contingency Planning
- Binational Council
- Air Monitoring
- Regional Workgroup Taskforce (Falcon)
- National Environmental Health Workgroup
- EJ



## Laredo's Committee

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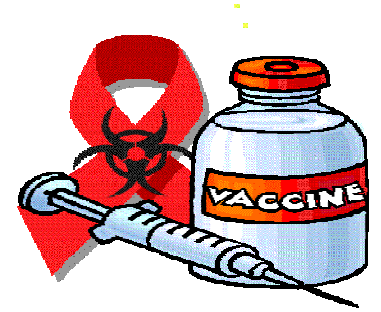


- Citizen's Environmental Advisory Committee
- Keep Laredo Beautiful
- "Dia Del Rio" to clean up the banks of the Rio Grande
- Environmental Health
- Binational Council Subcommittee



# Next Steps

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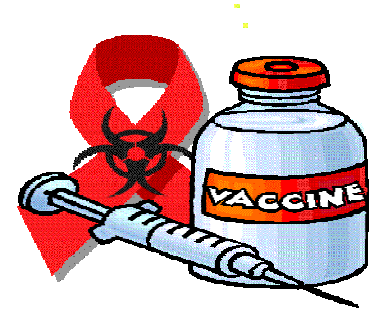


- Disseminate Air Monitoring Information
- Environmental and Outreach Education
- Promote technology
- Scientific Research
- Advance Training
- MOUs



# 2006 Changes

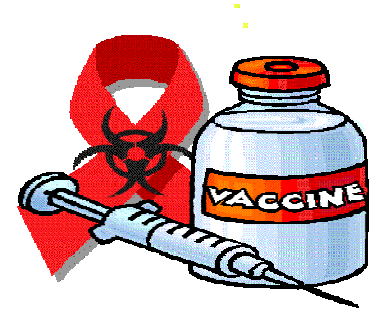
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- **Border 2012 Texas-Coahuila-Nuevo Leon-Tamaulipas Regional Workgroup**
- **Amistad Task Force**
- **Falcon Task Force**
- **Gulf Task Force**



## Environmental Health Advisors



### U.S.-Texas

- Falcon Hector F. Gonzalez, Health Director, City of Laredo Health Department
- Falcon Research and Implementation- Waldo Lopez MPH, RS, Chief DCED
- Gulf – Eduardo Olivares, Hidalgo Health

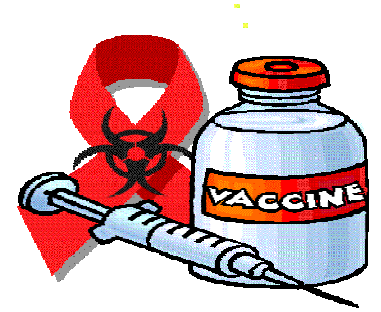
### MEXICO

- Amistad Task Force - Maestra Norma Mota, Coahuila
- Gulf & Falcon Task Forces – Dr. Raul Terrazas Barrazas, Tamaulipas



# Future Activities

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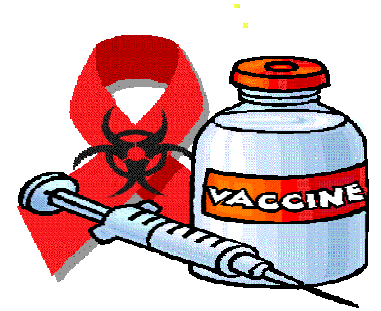


- Health Hazard Assessment
- Environmental Health Training
- Training Providers
- Risk and Cumulative Risk Analysis
- Partner with other agencies
- Data Exchange
- Reduce Chemical Exposure
- Reduce GI Illnesses



**Border 2012, FY 07**

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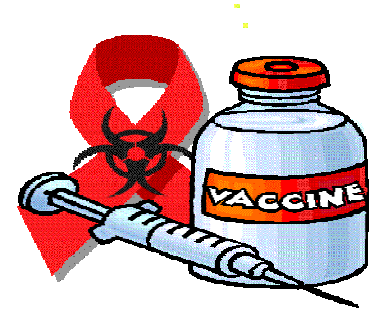


# **Building Binational Environmental Health Capacity Professional Capacity**



# Project Goals

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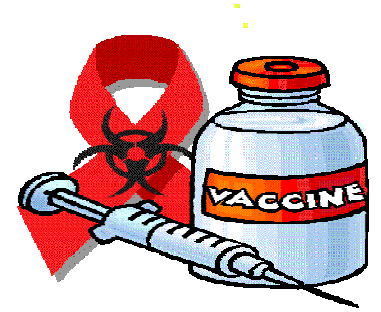


- **Develop Environmental Health Provider Capacity Skills for 100 Physicians**
- **Train Physician Providers in the use of Syndromic Surveillance**
- **Form a Review Committee of Physician Care Providers**
- **Update the *Physician's Guide to Pesticide Poisoning***



## Project Goals cont'd

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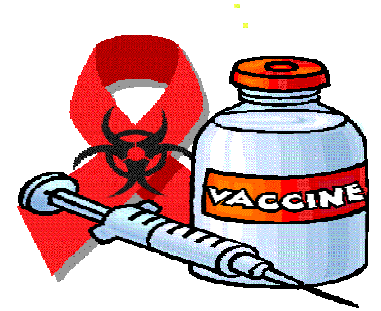


- **Develop a Physician Environmental Health Training Module**
- **Create a CEU Component**
- **Establish a University Consortium**
- **Evaluate the Training Module**



## Outcomes

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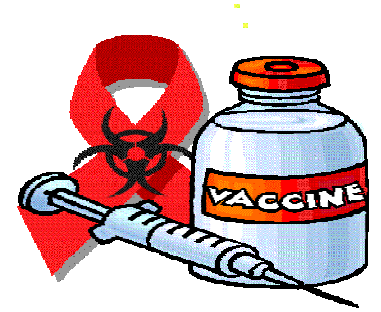


- **Train Providers along the Mexican/American border in Bi-national Health Exposure and Patient Care Management that includes Signs and Symptoms Recognition and Risk Communication**
- **Provide the proper Training Materials**
- **Award consortium of universities on the Mexican side of the border the training module to enhance health response and learning**



# Project Phase I

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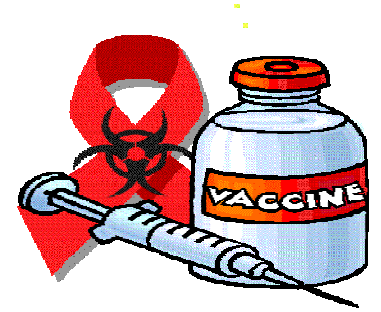


- **Gather all research and materials for compilation of resources**
- **Review research and the updated *Physician's Guide to Pesticide Poisoning* by the “expert panel” who will suggest what material is best for the training module**
- **Evaluate the training effectiveness of the system (S/S, LDL, and materials) and conduct a behavioral risk analysis of providers which includes the following: KAB pre/post test on environmental health hazards and recognition of patient's signs and symptoms of environmental exposure.**



## Project Phase II

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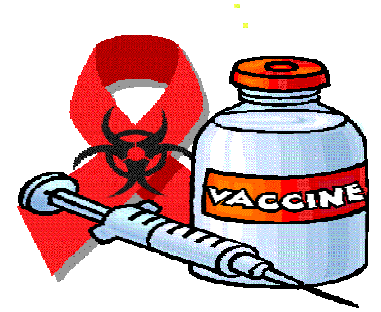


- **Document implementation will be assessed**
- **Several physicians will be asked to participate and use the training module in their practices**
- **Using the special web-based measuring questionnaire (tool), ten percent of the patients with the environmental health symptoms will be asked about their environmental health care**



## Project Phase III

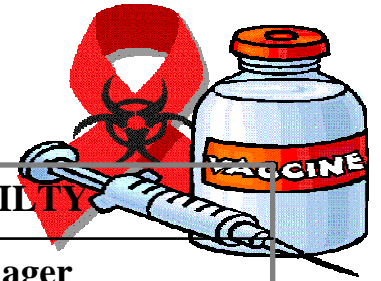
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- **Current forums will be used to train health providers**
- **These will be conducted in breakout sessions such as at Los Dos Laredos Conference in Laredo, USMBHA annual meeting held on the US/Mexico Border and through the UTHSC-SA/CLHD border to border conference.**
- **Development of training and capacity building materials will come full circle and be used along the US/Mexico Border.**



# Project Workgroup

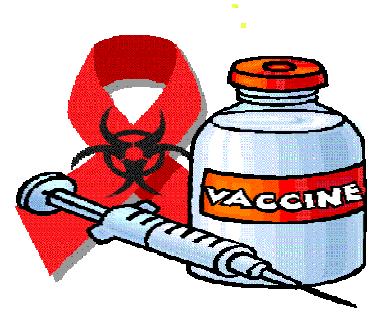


NAME	INSTITUTION	RESPONSIBILITY
Alfredo Coy	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Project Manager
Dr. KC Donnelly	Texas A&M Univ. College Station, TX	Evaluate the environmental health training module for effectiveness; part of the “expert advisory workgroup”
Dr. RJ Dutton	Texas A&M Univ. College Station, TX	Evaluate the environmental health training module for effectiveness; part of the “expert advisory workgroup”
Dr. Hector F. Gonzalez	City of Laredo Health Dept. Director	Project Manager
Dr. Miguel C. Fernández	Medical Director of the South Texas Poison Center	Part of the “expert advisory workgroup”
Dr. Beatriz Tapia	UTSAHSC—Laredo Campus Extension	Part of the “expert advisory workgroup”
Daniela Rodriguez	City of Laredo Health Department	Border 2012 Program Coordinator
Waldo Lopez, MPH, RS	City of Laredo Health Department	Co-Project Manager



**For More Information . . .**

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City of Laredo Health Department

Disease Control & Epidemiology Division

Telephone: 956-795-4950 (USA)

001-956-795-4950 (Mexico)