

# CHC BORDER HEALTH POLICY *FORUM*



## ***The U.S./Mexico Border: Demographic, Socio-Economic, and Health Issues Profile I***

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## Summary Introduction

- The Latino population in the United States who represent 14.1% (41.3 million) of the total U.S. population (U.S. Census/July 2004). Latinos include several subgroups with variations in racial and ethnic make-up, settlement patterns in U.S., and respective migration, immigration, and socio-cultural experience.
  - The subgroups include Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Central and South Americans, and persons of other Hispanic origin. Mexican Americans comprise approximately 63% of the total Latino population.
  - Since 2000, the Latino population experienced a 17% growth compared to an estimated 3% for non-Hispanics. They accounted for 49% of all population growth since 2000. *Note also*, Hispanics are the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest growth population among all racial/ethnic senior groups.
  - This growth is partly a function of youth; median age is 26.9 (peak women fertility years) compared to the White median age of 40, plus one in five children in the U.S. under age 18 is Hispanic.
  - The U.S.-Mexico Border States of Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas are a major contributor to the growth and demographic characteristics, particularly among the Mexican American and Immigrant population.
  - The largest contributor to the growth in U.S. populations is not immigration but U.S. birth by Hispanic (PEW Hispanic Research Center, 2005).
  - Latino economic and education inequalities, and health disparities are worsening across a wide range of indicators. This is particularly evident on the U.S.-Mexico Border with the largest concentration of Latinos in the U.S.
- U.S. Mexico Border State Latino Population (2005)**

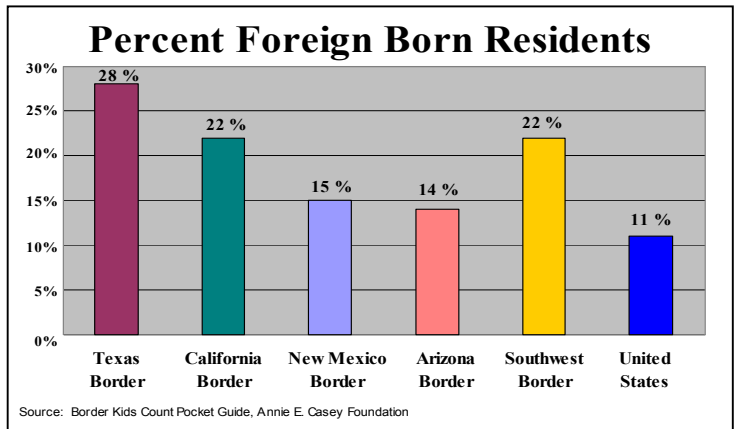
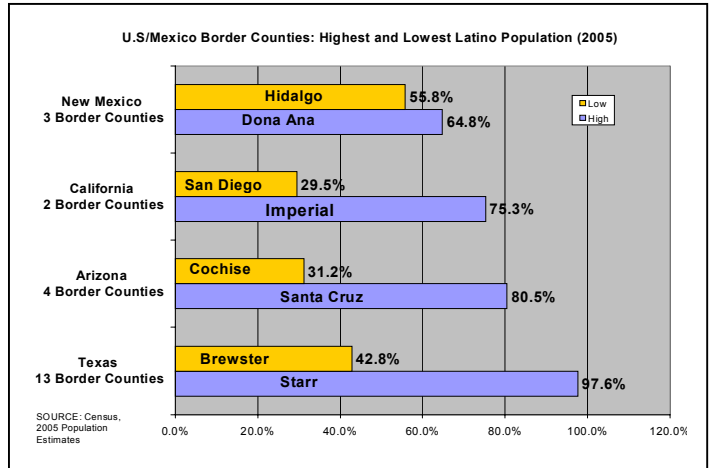
State	Percentage
U.S.	14.7%
Border States	35.5%
CA	35.2%
AZ	25.5%
NM	43.4%
TX	35.1%
32 Border Counties	52.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 Current Population Survey
- Numerous public health and private research have documented the resiliency and economic, education, and health challenges of Border States and the respective 24 Border Counties.
  - The U.S./Mexico Border Commission's Healthy Border 2010 Agenda (October 2003) reasonable identifies the major health priorities of access to health care, environmental health, immunization and infectious diseases, diabetes, oral health, HIV/AIDS, maternal/infant/child health, cancer, and mental health.
  - The demographic, education, economic, and social-cultural factors impacting Latino bienestar and health status are mirrored through the U.S./Mexico Border Counties, albeit their severity and costs may vary in select areas of issues and needs.
  - The historical and current political/policy environments (Border County, State, and National levels), particularly immigration issues have direct implications for objective solutions and resource support policies in addressing the issues exemplified by this Profile.

## Demographic and Socio-Economic Environment

### Population

- There are 66.7 million residents in the Border States comprising 22.7% of the total U.S. population.
- There are 6.9 million residents in the 32 Border Counties that span from San Diego County to Cameron County in Texas. They comprising 10.4% of the total Border State population.
- San Diego CA, Pima AZ, El Paso, Hidalgo, and Cameron Counties in TX account for 11% of the total Border population.
- Since 1990, the border counties have experienced a growth rate of nearly 30%. If it was a State, it would rank 13<sup>th</sup> largest in the Union.
- High fertility and international migration are the two major reasons driving population growth, which is forecasted to continue.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> highest concentration of Hispanics of all states is along the Border Counties. Latinos comprise 35.5% (23.6 million) and 52.1 % (3.6 million) of the Border States and Border Counties respectively compared to the 14.7% of the total U.S. population.
- The Border ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> among all states in the percentage of the population under 19. They account for 1.4 million (31%) of the Border population and 64% are Hispanic children.
- Of Border residents, 22% are foreign born (28% TX, 15% NM, 14% AZ, 22%, CA).



### Immigration

- Almost 5 percent of the nation's foreign born persons reside in the border counties, and close to 72 percent of the total foreign born population in border counties was born in Mexico.
- Each day about 132,000 persons, 250,000 vehicles, 523,000 passenger vehicles, 12,000 commercial trucks, and 2,000 rail containers cross from Mexico into the United States.
- Seven ports of entry, and their respective border counties, are at the center of cross-border trade and crossings between the United States and Mexico. These crossings handle 90 percent of all southwest border trade and northbound commercial truck traffic.
- Laredo, El Paso, and San Diego are the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> busiest land gateways by trade value in the nation.

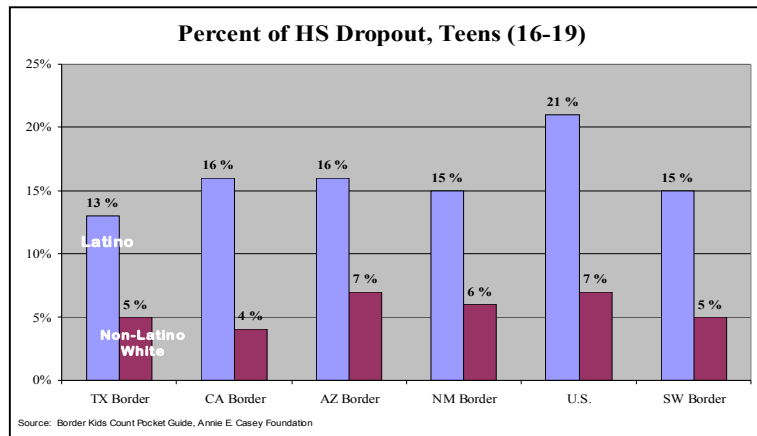
## Demographic and Socio-Economic Environment

### Education

- In 2000, 73 percent of Border residents above the age of 25 had completed high school, compared with 80.4 percent nationally, ranking border counties 50th if considered a 51st state. Without San Diego, that ranking would drop to last.
- Border Counties would rank 27th among the states in the percentage of adults with a four year college degree. Excluding San Diego, the ranking would drop to 46th.
- High educational demand along border counties are in part due to the large under 18 population- ranking 2nd as a 51st state..
- Latino students are three times (15%) more likely to Drop-Out of High School compared to Non-Latinos (5%).<sup>1</sup>
- But teens that live on the Border (16-19) are less likely to Drop-Out of High School than non-border teens.

### Labor Force, Labor Pool and Unemployment along the Border

- If Border Counties were the 51<sup>st</sup> state, they would rank 5<sup>th</sup> in unemployment.
- Collectively, in 22 of the 24 Border Counties, the unemployment rate is double the national average (10% versus 5%), and their labor force participation rates are less than 58 percent compared to 65 percent nationwide.
- Other than San Diego, border counties have an extremely low percentage of private jobs in the higher paying professional, scientific, and technical sector. Without San Diego, border counties fall as a 51st state from 15th to 35th in this sector.
- Border Counties have significant “underemployment” among their populations- individuals with skills exceeding the jobs they perform. Underemployment in border counties and “temp” work far exceed national average.
- Women are less likely to participate in the workforce than men in the Border Counties when compared to the nation. The female participation rate in the labor force is significantly lower than the male participation rate along the border regardless of household type, marital status, or number of children in households.
- As a result of border counties’ proximity to Mexico and sales to customers of Mexican origin, retail trade along the border plays an important role in the economy when compared to the rest of the United States. Border counties would rank 19th as a 51st state in this sector; without San Diego, the rank falls to 31st.

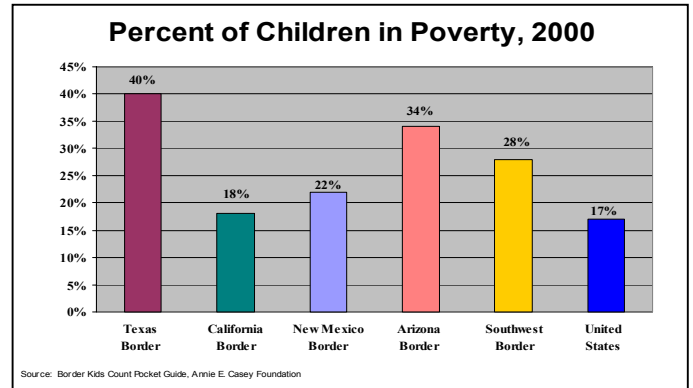


<sup>1</sup> The Annie Casey Foundation, *Border Kids Count: A Snapshot of Children living on the Southwest Border*, 2005

## Socio-Economic Environment and Health Status Issues

### Income, Poverty, and Housing

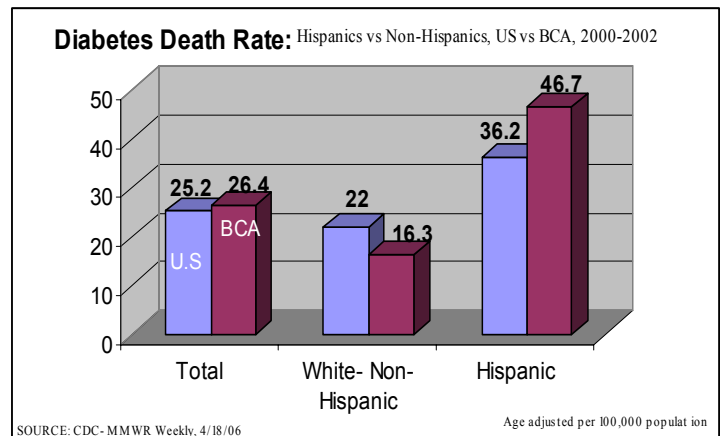
- Border Counties rank last in Per Capita Income if San Diego County is not included.
- Nineteen Border Counties have a per capita income less than \$21,000 (2003).
- The economic condition for residents who live on the TX and NM Border are significantly worse than rest of the US-Mexico Border. (Live below 100% FPL: TX-24% NM- 33%)<sup>2</sup>
- The poverty rate for children living along the Border is twice (37%) the national average (17%).<sup>3</sup>
- About half- million Children along the Border are poor and Hispanic (83%).
- Approximately 80% of Hispanic children who live on the Border come from working poor families.
- The Border ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> in home ownership, 37<sup>th</sup> in home affordability and 45<sup>th</sup> if San Diego is not included.
- Colonias Residents and Farm Workers – Target populations further impacting Border County families whom are living in environments with greater poverty, isolation, exacerbate health problems and related risks, limit public transportation, and environmental hazards.



### Chronic Disease

- The leading cause of death among Border County residents is heart disease.<sup>4</sup>
- The Border ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in incidence of diabetes and 5<sup>th</sup> in diabetes deaths.
- The Diabetes Type 2 Rate on the US-Mexico Border is 16% (700,000) versus the US rate of 13.9%.
- Also, about 13.9% of the US-Mexico Border County population is pre-diabetic. An estimated 74% and 70% of men and women respectively are overweight or obese.<sup>5</sup>

The Diabetes Death Rate particularly for Hispanic (46.7%) is much greater on the US-Mexico Border.<sup>6</sup>



<sup>2</sup> The US-Mexico Border Health Commission, *Health Border 2010- An Agenda for Improving Health on the United States- Mexico Border*, Oct 2003

<sup>3</sup> The Annie Casey Foundation, *Border Kids Count: A Snapshot of Children living on the Southwest Border*, 2005

<sup>4</sup> The US-Mexico Border Health Commission, *Health Border 2010- An Agenda for Improving Health on the United States- Mexico Border*, Oct 2003

<sup>5</sup> CDC and PAHO, Nov 2004

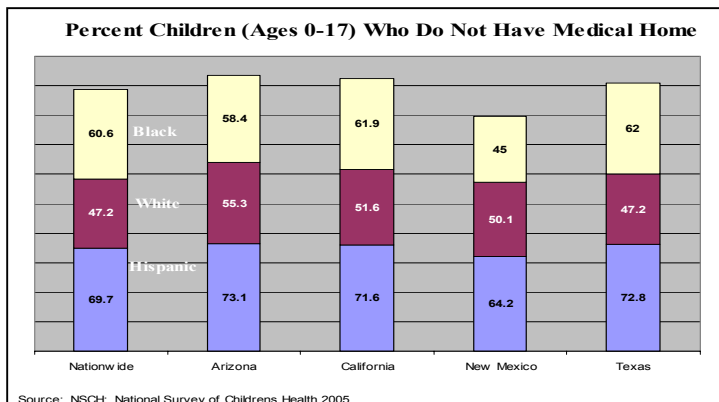
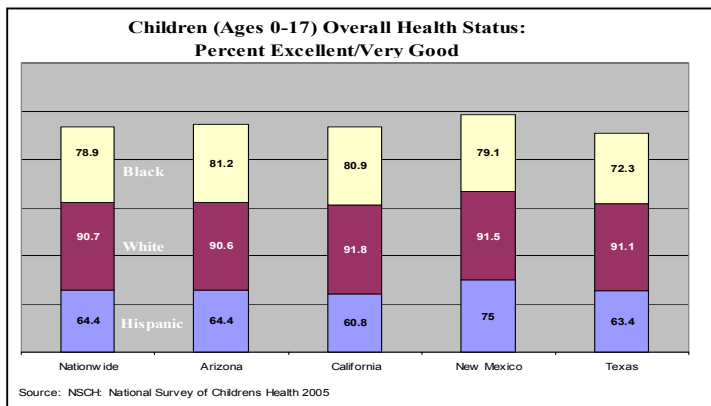
<sup>6</sup> MMWR Weekly, Aug 06

## Health Status Issues

- Based on Asthma hospital discharge data, over half of the Border Counties exceed the national rate of 7.7. The range is from 7.8 to 22.6 among the Border Counties.
- Six (6) other top causes of death on the Border include cancer, cerebrovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia and influenza combined chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, and unintentional injuries.

### Maternal and Child Health

- The infant mortality rate in border counties is significantly lower than the national rate. As a 51st state, border counties would rank 39th.
- Low birth weight babies in border counties occur at a far lower rate than the nation, resulting in a 37th place ranking, if viewed as a 51<sup>st</sup> state.
- The high poverty levels, lack of access to a “medical care home” for many Border County women and the high teen pregnancy rate requires priority prenatal care attention.
- Many Latino children on the Border face numerous health disparities that are impacting their bienestar and health status at much early ages. The disparities will continue to impact them negatively into adulthood – i.e., lack of a stable medical home combined with at-risk environmental factors (poverty, inadequate education, substance abuse, etc.).
- Teenage births on the border are higher (17%) than the nation (12%).



Percent of Births to Teens	
US	12%
Southwest BCA	14%
<b>Texas</b>	<b>15%</b>
Texas BCA	17%
Brewster	15
Cameron	17
El Paso	17
Hidalgo	16
Hudspeth	19
Kinney	30
Maverick	19
Presidio	21
Starr	22
Terrell	14
Val Verde	17
Webb	17
Zapata	22
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>14%</b>
Arizona BCA	19%
Cochise	17
Pima	15
Santa Cruz	16
Yuma	17
<b>California</b>	<b>11%</b>
California BCA	10%
Imperial	17
San Diego	9
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>17%</b>
New Mexico BCA	15%
Dona Ana	19
Hidalgo	13
Luna	23

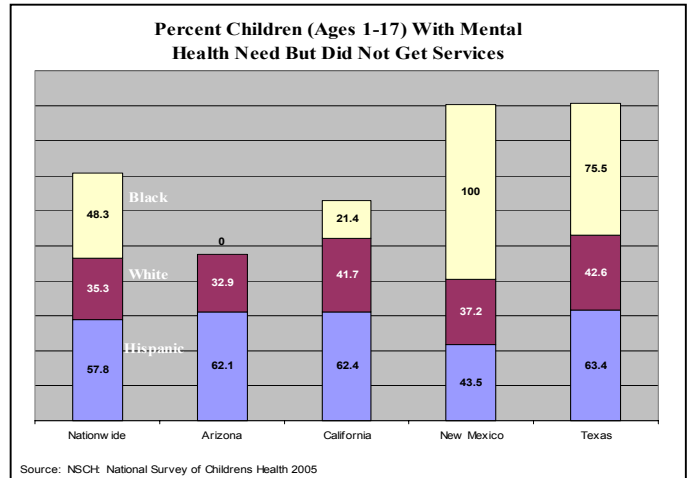
## Health Status Issues

### Oral Health

- Oral health is a significant concern, particularly for children, adult diabetics, and seniors based on fragmented data sources, public agencies, research articles, and program related documentation.

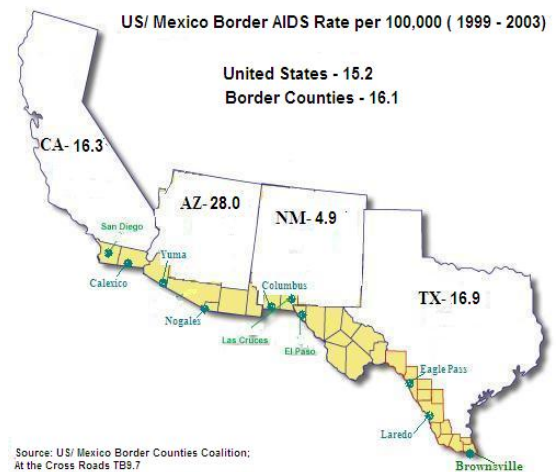
### Mental Health

- Based on similar research and findings, Mental health is also a significant concern, particularly for children, adults with chronic disease, and mental health areas such depression and bipolar disease along the border.



### HIV/AIDS

- The US-Mexico Border ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in incidence of AIDS.
- HIV/AIDS rates among Latinos nationally (19%), and on the U.S./Mexico Border, particularly Arizona (28%), Texas (16.9%), and California (16.3%) are higher than the national rate of 15.2%.
- The Border County communities are at a greater risk of HIV/AIDS given that they are the transnational corridor for much of Latin America and others seeking entry into the U.S.
- AIDS among Hispanic women is most commonly attributed to heterosexual contact along the border.
- The Border Counties rank 2nd in incidence of tuberculosis, and 3rd in deaths due to hepatitis



**1999-2003 Reported Rates of AIDS, HEPA, and TB Cases by County**

	Aids Rate per 100,000	Hepatitis A Rate per 100,000	TB Rate per 100,000
United States (2003)	15.2	2.6	5.1
Border Counties	16.1	4.7	10.4
Arizona (2003)	28.0	0.0	63.3
Cochise	13.9	0.4	0.0
Pima	34.7	0.5	27.7
Santa Cruz	14.9	7.4	5.0
Yuma	17.5	0.6	14.6
California (1999-2001)	16.3	0.0	19.8
Imperial	2.9	0.0	10.2
San Diego	20.2	0.0	10.5
New Mexico (2000-2002)	4.9	0.0	3.0
Dona Ana	5.9	0.0	6.7
Hidalgo	0.0	1.5	0.0
Luna	2.7	0.0	0.0
Texas (2001)	16.9	1.6	7.7
Brewster	11.2	1.0	11.2
Cameron	11.3	3.7	16.0
Cuiberson	0.0	0.7	0.0
El Paso	17.6	0.8	9.7
Hidalgo	0.0	0.0	12.5
Hudspeth	0.0	0.0	0.0
Jeff Davis	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kinney	0.0	1.1	22.0
Maverick	12.4	1.7	0.0
Presidio	0.0	1.7	0.0
Starr	3.7	4.4	34.8
Terrell	0.0	0.0	0.0
Val Verde	2.2	4.0	19.8
Webb	5.0	0.0	15.4
Zapata	0.0	2.0	15.9

\*A complete data base to calculate this value is not available.  
 + TX DHS; 2003  
 Source: US Mexico Border Counties Coalition