



Memorandum

Date June 25, 1987

From Charles W. Warren, Ph.D., Demographer, Program Evaluation Branch (PEB),
Division of Reproductive Health (DRH), Center for Health Promotion and
Education (CHPE)

Subject Foreign Trip Report (AID/RSSA): June 8-11, 1987, Tijuana, Mexico--Binational
Symposium on Population Issues at the United States-Mexico Border

To James O. Mason, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Director, Centers for Disease Control
Through: Assistant Director for Science, CHPE *Thoms*

SUMMARY

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APPENDIX A: SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

SUMMARY

A binational symposium on population issues at the U.S.-Mexico border was held by the Programa de Estudios de Poblacion, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Mexico, and the International Population Center, San Diego State University. About 30 participants attended the symposium, including Government and academic population experts from both Mexico and the United States. Charles Warren presented findings from the 1979 U.S.-Mexico Border Survey (conducted by CDC) on use and source of contraception, breast-feeding, and the proximate determinants of fertility.

The Symposium concluded that current reproductive health (contraception and maternal-child health) data are needed for the border population. Also, local area studies are needed concerning the social, economic, and health conditions of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. who came from Mexico.

I. PLACES, DATES, AND PURPOSES OF TRAVEL

Tijuana, Mexico, June 8-11, 1987, at the request of AID/POP/Washington and USAID/Mexico, to participate in a binational symposium on population issues at the U.S.-Mexico border, co-hosted by: Programa de Estudios de Poblacion, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Mexico, and the International Population Center, San Diego State University, United States. This travel was in accordance with the Resource Support Services Agreement between AID/POP/Washington and CDC/CHPE/DRH.

II. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

A. El Colegio de la Frontera Norte

1. Dr. Jorge A. Bustamante, President
2. Dr. Roberto Ham Chande, Director, Programa de Estudios de Poblacion

B. San Diego State University

1. Dr. John R. Weeks, Administrative Director, International Population Center

III. SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

The symposium schedule is shown in Appendix A. The first day focused on defining what the border region should be from both a geographical and theoretical standpoint. The second, and part of the third day, included presentations on reproductive behavior and general health conditions on the border. The second part of the third day and the fourth day included presentations on migration and population policies in the region.

The 30 participants at the symposium included the Governor of Baja California and a number of population experts from U.S. and Mexico academic and Government institutions. Local press coverage in Tijuana was excellent.

IV. SYMPOSIUM CONCLUSIONS

A. An Overview

1. Symposium participants spent a great deal of time attempting to define the "border region." Two views were expressed: (1) In terms of health care programs, the border region is generally defined as the geographic area contiguous to the border of the U.S. and Mexico. (2) In terms of more theoretical issues such as labor force participation and migration, the border region essentially stretches to wherever migrants from Mexico go for work in the U.S. (i.e., Colorado, Washington, Chicago). The symposium concluded that since no single definition of the border is possible, each study will make its own.
2. Reproductive health issues discussed in the symposium included such topics as: contraceptive use, breast-feeding practices, and maternal-child health. At this time, the only available data for monitoring these reproductive health issues was that collected in 1979 (the Mexico National Fertility and Mortality Survey and the U.S.-Mexico Border Survey). From these data the following results were presented. Among currently married women 15-44 years of age in 1979, contraceptive use varied by: Mexico total, 40.0 percent; Mexico 6 Northern States, 49.9 percent; Mexican-American, 65 percent; and Non-Hispanic, U.S., 75.1 percent. Breast-feeding was higher in Mexico than in the U.S., but the duration was short (less than 12 months) for all of the groups. Prenatal care and post-partum checkups were common in both Mexico and the U.S. No population-based data existed on the level of immunization for border area children in either the U.S. or Mexico.
3. Migrations, also, was an important topic of discussion in the symposium. Especially important was the issue of the new Immigration Law in the U.S. In general, numerous myths and misinterpretations of this law were dispelled by a representative of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. A number of presentations were made, which focused on problems encountered when trying to study undocumented immigrants in the U.S.--such as very low response rates and the refusal to answer sensitive questions. A final topic addressed the issue of

how to estimate the number of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. A variety of methods were presented, none of which appeared very accurate.

B. Future Research

This symposium primarily discussed important population issues on the U.S.-Mexico border. There was no agenda to formally adopt or draft research protocols. However, all of the participants were encouraged to continue pursuit of their research interests concerning the border area. The excellent exchange of ideas and information which resulted from the symposium will likely lead to many new research projects. Among those topics identified as high priority were:

1. Reproductive Health--A current comprehensive reproductive health survey of women in the border area is needed. The 1979 data will soon be a decade old and thus unreliable for use by policymakers.
2. Undocumented immigrants--Numerous new studies of the undocumented population are needed, including: accurate population counts and social, economic, and health conditions of the undocumented population. It was suggested strongly that these studies should be conducted in local areas (i.e., adjacent U.S. and Mexico border cities), because of the sensitive nature of this work.


Charles W. Warren, Ph.D.

**SIMPOSIO BINACIONAL SOBRE
POBLACIÓN EN LA FRONTERA
MÉXICO-ESTADOS UNIDOS**

**BINATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
POPULATION ISSUES AT
THE UNITED STATES-MÉXICO
BORDER**

Coorganizado por:
Co-hosted by:

**Programa de Estudios
de Población.
El Colegio de la
Frontera Norte.
México.**

**International Population
Center.
San Diego State
University.
Estados Unidos.**

**Tijuana, B.C., del 8 al 11 de junio de 1987
Tijuana, B.C., México, June 8-11, 1987**

PROGRAM

Monday, June 8th.

9:00 hrs.

0.- Registration of participants.

10:00 hrs.

Inauguration of the symposium by Xicoténcatl LEYVA MORTERA, governor of the state of Baja California.

Welcoming comments by Albert JOHNSON, vice-president of San Diego State University.

Presentation: *Conceptual view of population problems along the border.*

Jorge A. Bustamante, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte.

11:00 hrs.

1.- With respect to population studies and activities, how is the border region defined? What is the northern border of Mexico? What is the southern border of the United States? What are the interrelationships between both borders?

Moderator: William VISSER, United Nations.

1.1.- *Definition and demographic characteristics of the northern border of Mexico.*

Rodolfo CRUZ, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte.

René ZENTENO, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte.

1.2.- *Definition and demographic characteristics of the southwest border of the United States.*

Leo CHÁVEZ, University of California, Irvine.

14:00 hrs.

Lunch.

16:00 hrs.

2.- Additional sociodemographic characteristics of the border population.

Moderator: David HAYES-BAUTISTA, University of California, Los Angeles.

2.1.- *Economically active population in the northern border region of Mexico.*

Mercedes PEDRERO, Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática.

2.2.- *Population size, age structure, and geographic distribution of the border population.*

Edgar BUTTLER, University of California, Riverside.

James PICK, University of California, Riverside.

2.3.- *Border populations, economic activity, and maquiladoras.*

Silvia MÉNDEZ, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte.

2.4.- *Female labor force participation and migration among U.S. Hispanics.*

Marta TIENDA, Stanford University.

2.5.- *In Baja California the population is not what it seems to be.*

Gabriel ESTRELLA, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California.

Tuesday, June 9th.

10:00 hrs.

3.- *Characteristics of Reproductive Behavior. Comparisons between both sides of the border; with the resident population of the U.S. of Hispanic origin, and with other regions of Mexico and the United States.*

Moderator: Thomas FREJKA, The Population Council.

3.1.- *Fertility and maternal and child health in the northern border region of Mexico.*

Leopoldo NÚÑEZ, Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social.

3.2.- *Birth outcomes and health education along the border.*

Karen ITO, US-Mexico Border Health Association.

3.3.- *Family structure in the northern border region of Mexico.*

María de la Paz LÓPEZ, Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática.

3.4.- *Fertility levels in the Hispanic population in the United States.*

Frank BEAN, University of Texas, Austin.

3.5.- *Patterns of nuptiality in the northern border region of Mexico.*

Julieta QUILODRÁN, El Colegio de México.

14:00 hrs.

Lunch.

16:00 hrs.

4.- *Family planning in the region. Contraceptive prevalence. Programs and activities of family planning in the region.*

Moderator: Gonzalo JIMÉNEZ, Consejo Estatal de Población.

4.1.- *The public sector family planning policies for the border region.*

Yolanda PALMA, Secretaría de Salud.

Manuel URBINÁ, Secretaría de Salud.

4.2.- *Private family planning organizations.*

Gabriela DURAZO, Federación Mexicana de Asocia-
ciones Privadas de Salud Materno-Infantil y
Planificación Familiar.

4.3.- *Contraceptive prevalence along the southern U.S. border.*

Charles WARREN, Centers for Disease Control.

4.4.- *Prevalence and migration in Baja California.*

Ana María CHÁVEZ, Universidad Nacional Autónoma
de México.

Wednesday, June 10th.

10:00 hrs.

5.- *Levels of health and mortality. Comparative analysis and interrelationships between both sides of the border.*

Moderator: Leo ESTRADA, University of California,
Los Angeles.

5.1.- *Estimates of infant mortality along the northern border of Mexico.*

Leopoldo NÚÑEZ, Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social.

5.2.- *Mortality levels in the Hispanic population along the southern border of the U.S.*

Benjamin BRADSHAW, University of Texas,
San Antonio.

5.3.- *Mortality by cause of death in the northern border region of Mexico.*

José A. IZAZOLA, Secretaría de Salud.

14:00 hrs.

Lunch.

9.- Conclusiones del simposio, y establecimiento de una agenda de investigación y colaboración binacional en materia de población a lo largo de la frontera.

Moderadores: Roberto HAM CHANDE, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte,
John R. WEEKS, San Diego State University.

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THE WILLIAM AND FLORA HEWLETT FOUNDATION
THE BERGSTROM FOUNDATION
THE COWELL FOUNDATION
THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

9.- Conclusions of the symposium; establishment of an agenda for binational research and collaboration in population issues along the border.

Moderators: Roberto HAM CHANDE, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte,
John R. WEEKS, San Diego State University.

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THE WILLIAM AND FLORA HEWLETT FOUNDATION
THE BERGSTROM FOUNDATION
THE COWELL FOUNDATION
THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION