

# **Environmental Health Workgroup Working Session**

**Border 2012 National Coordinators Meeting  
Tucson, Arizona  
March 9, 2005**

# <http://www.epa.gov/ehwg/>



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## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

# US-Mexico Border 2012 Environmental Health Workgroup

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Protection of public health is a key element of the Border 2012 program and it is an integral part of all program activities. The Environmental Health Work Group (EHWG) serves as the main conduit for addressing bi-national environmental health concerns, such as increases in disease rates along the US-Mexico border. We are committed to increasing collaboration between environmental and public health entities to identify and improve community health issues.

In the past several years, we have conducted a number of projects in the border region related to surveillance, research, training/education and communication. More recently, the workgroup focus has shifted to also look at the development and application of indicators to assess changes in specific human exposure and health conditions. For a list of ongoing projects regarding border environmental health, visit our [projects and publications page](#).

### CURRENT NEWS

[Materials from EHWG/BITF Meeting](#)

### Border 2012 Calendar

[Border 2012](#) | [Research and Development](#) | [Health and Environmental Effects](#) | [Technology Transfer Network](#)

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Last updated on Friday, March 4th, 2005  
URL: <http://www.epa.gov/ehwg/>



In conjunction with the above objectives, the Environmental Health Workgroup (EHWG) is committed to achieving goal #4 of the Border 2012 program – *Improve Environmental Health*. This will be accomplished by working in the four program objectives outlined in the [US-Mexico Border 2012 Framework](#) (PDF, 38 pp, 1.15 mb, [About PDF](#) ).

**Objective 1 : Air**

By 2006, evaluate various measures of respiratory health in children that might be tracked to assess changes that may result from actions to improve air quality in border communities.

**Objective 2 : Water**

By 2006, evaluate various measures of gastrointestinal illness that might be tracked to assess changes that may result from actions to improve water quality in border communities.

**Objective 3 : Pesticides**

**Objective 3A:** By 2006, an assessment and pilot program will be completed that explores the feasibility of harmonizing a binational system for reporting acute pesticide poisonings.

**Objective 3B:** By 2007, reduce pesticide exposure by training 36,000 farmworkers on pesticide risks and safe handling, including ways to minimize exposure for families and children.

**Objective 4 : Capacity Building**

**Objective 4A** By 2006, establish a "distance-learning", post-graduate degree program to support advanced training on environmental health in conjunction with Pan American Health Organization regional offices and academic institutions.

**Objective 4B:** By 2004, extend current efforts in binational environmental health training for 100 health care providers each for pesticides and water.

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Last updated on Monday, January 10th, 2005

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## PROJECTS & PUBLICATIONS

### ONGOING

#### Air

[Effects of Diesel Exposure and Traffic Related Air Pollution on Asthmatic Children in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua](#)

#### Water

[Safe Drinking Water Demonstration Project for South Texas](#)

#### Pesticides

[Longitudinal Variability in Urinary Pesticide Metabolites Among Children](#)

[Pilot Study Evaluating Symptomatic Children for Organophosphate Pesticide Exposure](#)

[Urinary Biomarker Data Analysis and Study Design for Children Along the U.S.- Mexico Border](#)

[Urinary Metabolites in Environmental Media: A Scoping and Feasibility Study](#)

#### Multimedia

[Bintational Tracking Network of Environmentally Related Diseases](#)

[Environmental Health Indicators Initiative](#)

### COMPLETED

#### Air

[El Paso Children's Respiratory Health Study](#)

### ONGOING

- Air
- Water
- Pesticides
- Multimedia

### COMPLETED

- Air
- Pesticides
- Multimedia



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**PROJECTS & PUBLICATIONS**

**SAFE DRINKING WATER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR SOUTH TEXAS**

Start Date: 6/3/2002 Completion Date: 1/31/2005 [Download PDF](#) (2 pp, 28 kb, [about PDF](#))

**PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of this contract is to develop and implement training activities for health professionals, community health workers (promotores) on safe drinking water concepts.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Deliver a health education and intervention program to several communities in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Webb Counties. In addition, a process was implemented to assess the effectiveness of the health education and intervention program for encouraging behavioral changes in the population. Provide continuing medical education courses to open discussions between physicians and the Texas Department of Health regarding methods to increase usage and improve the efficiency of the current web-based tracking system.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Six promotoras serving two counties are employed by the project and have been trained in the Safe Drinking Water module. Project promotoras have delivered the health education module on Safe Drinking Water to 71 families. Continuing Medical Education Sessions have been provided to 20 health care professionals. Presentations of Safe Drinking Water curriculum were conducted to 147 nurses. Safe Drinking Water curriculum has been presented to 12 schools in the Texas border region. Approximately 228 students.

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

1) Training promotoras in Texas and Mexico to deliver health education modules; total number should not exceed 12; (2) delivery of safe drinking water education to 200 families in colonias in Hidalgo and Webb Counties; (3) delivery of Continuing Medical Education curriculum to 50 health care professionals in Cameron, Webb, Starr and Hidalgo Counties; (4) delivery of educational program



# Current Projects: HRSA

**Continue work through an interagency agreement**

- **Establish an electronic forum (E-group) for environmental health information exchange for health professionals**
- **Create a methodology to evaluate the effectiveness of environmental health education and training interventions**

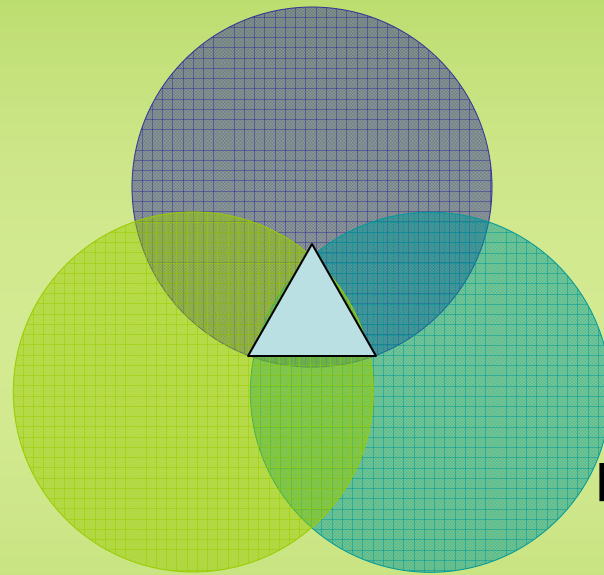
# Current Projects: Pesticides

(See pesticides presentation from EHWG meeting  
<http://www.epa.gov/ehwg/> for complete update)

- **Continuous train-the-trainer workshops throughout Mexico**
- **Expand to include training for doctors in Mexico on recognition & management of poisonings**
- **Opportunities for trainer & researcher exchange programs**
- **Border Pesticide Poisoning Tracking System: CA DPR & Mexico on reporting system for acute pesticide incidents**
- **Arizona/Sonora Children's Environmental Health Campaign: to reduce exposures to environmental contaminants**

# Environmental Health Indicator Development 2005-2006 Action Plan

**EHWG**



**Task  
Forces**

**Border 2012  
National  
Workgroups**

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## MATERIALS FROM EHWG/BITF MEETING

FEBRUARY 2-4, 2005

([ABOUT PDF FILES](#))

### General Meeting Information

- [Meeting Agenda](#) (PDF, 4pp, 27KB)
- [Reunión Agenda](#) (PDF, 4pp, 28KB)
- [Strategy for Indicator Development](#) (PDF, 24pp, 122KB)
- [Estrategia para el Desarrollo de los Indicadores](#) (PDF, 25pp, 130KB)
- [Meeting Minutes](#) (PDF, 6pp, 50KB)
- [Minutos de Reunión](#) (PDF, 6pp, 51KB)
- [Meeting Participants](#) (PDF, 10pp, 22KB)

### Regional Priorities

- [Region 6 EH priorities](#) (PDF, 24pp, 225KB)  
Norma L. Duran, Ph.D.  
USEPA, Region 6 El Paso Border Office
- [Arizona-Sonora priorities](#) (PDF, 6pp, 104KB)  
Ward Jacox - Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
Edith Frias Bustos - SEMARNAT - Sonora
- [USMBHC](#) (PDF, 22pp, 1.9MB)  
Eva Moya, LMSW  
USMBHC U.S. Section Executive Director
- [Common issues of EH TF](#) (PDF, 5pp, 14KB)

### Future Plans

- [EHWG Action Plan](#) (PDF, 4pp, 17KB)  
Hal Zenick  
EPA/Office of Research and Development
- [BITF Workshop](#) (PDF, 7pp, 400KB)

### EHWG and BITF Partner Experiences

- [Lessons Learned](#) (PDF, 12pp, 383KB)  
Piedad Huerta, Health Promotion Officer, PAHO/WHO  
Alma Galvan, Environmental Health Consultant, PAHO/WHO
- [The Role of Environmental Public Health Indicators](#) (PDF, 10pp, 36KB)  
Michael A. McGeehin, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.  
Director, Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects  
National Center for Environmental Health  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- [Red Binacional de Monitoreo de Enfermedades Relacionadas con el Medio Ambiente](#) (PDF, 20pp, 1.1MB)

### Other EHWG Activities

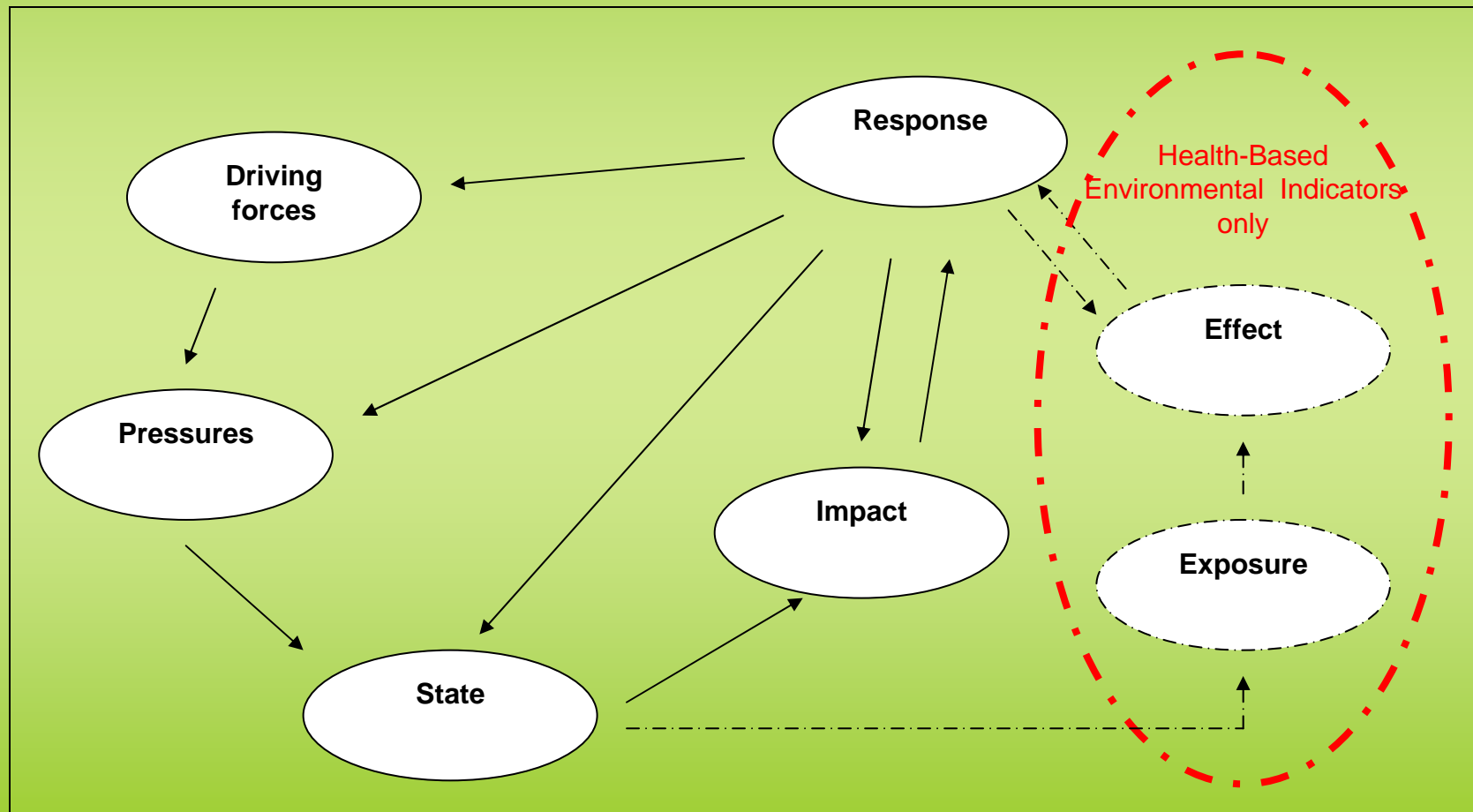
- [Past EHWG priorities](#) (PDF, 9pp, 291KB)  
Hal Zenick,  
EPA/Office of Research and Development
- [EHWG with USMBHC](#) (PDF, 16pp, 571KB)
- [Update on pesticide activities](#) (PDF, 28pp, 218KB)  
Kennan Garvey  
EPA/Office of Pesticide Programs
- [Yellow pages to e-group](#) (PDF, 12pp, 417KB)  
Kirstin Crowder  
Association of Schools of Public Health  
Fellow at the USEPA Office of Research & Development

# Strategy for Indicator Development

## Purpose:

- to provide a foundation for the identification, development, and use of a basic set of indicators for the Border 2012 program
- will guide the development of border indicators
- provides common terminology
- describes a conceptual framework to facilitate the organization and interpretation of indicators
- defines indicator selection criteria

# DPSIR Model



# EHWG ACTIONS

- Form two working teams on Air and Water
- Develop Action Plan with indicators as a major element
- EHWG co-chairs will appoint a U.S. and Mexico facilitators for each group
- Group will also have a representative from the Air and Water Policy Forums and from each Border Environmental Health Taskforces and PAHO (SCERP?)

# EHWG ACTIONS

- Team will apply the Strategy model to:
  - align current indicator efforts (by taskforces, workgroups, etc)
  - identify commonalties and
  - delineate major data/information gaps
  - prioritize the linkages<sup>1</sup> toward which efforts and resources should be directed

<sup>1</sup>Highest priority to linkages that have broadest value and impact

# EHWG ACTIONS

## **Value of Action Plan**

- **Provide forum for the various groups to share on going efforts, data etc**
- **Guide directions for proposal solicitations and other mechanisms and funding**
- **Provide plan that the Commission requested on which to build partnerships and leverage resources**
- **Contribute key elements to EHWG overall 2005 (and beyond) work plan.**

# Next Steps for Action Plan

- Gain consensus on **what** is being proposed
- Identify **who** will participate
- Discuss **how** the technical groups will function