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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established an office in Mexico in 2000. The CDC Mexico country office is part of CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine's, United States Mexico Unit (USMU). The United States and Mexico share a land border of nearly 2,000 miles. Infectious diseases such as COVID-19, Zika, tuberculosis (TB), influenza, and measles affect both countries. In this border region, residents cross daily/weekly for work (including seasonal workers and truck drivers), social connection, shopping and medical care. Mexico is the second-largest supplier of imports to the United States, and its the second-largest export market and trading partner. Mexico City is a frequent site for business meetings, mass gathering events, and tourism. CDC provides technical support for investigation and control of binational and international infectious disease outbreaks; implements initiatives to enhance binational surveillance and laboratory capacity.



205 TB-positive cases were identified and referred for treatment in Mexico in 2018-2019



146 TB patients (71%) completed TB treatment



CureTB is a program that prevents TB cases and deaths among mobile populations and is supported by CDC.



CDC Mexico and the Mexican Secretariat of Health (SALUD) work to enhance COVID-19 bilateral response coordination and strengthen core response capacity



CDC's United States-Mexico Unit manages CDC's quarantine stations in El Paso, TX and in San Diego, CA



CDC's quarantine stations are part of a comprehensive quarantine system that serves to limit the introduction and spread of infectious diseases into the United States



The Binational Technical Working Group addresses public health concerns at the United States-Mexico border. The two countries share a land border of nearly 2,000 miles



CDC Mexico played a key role during the 2009 H1N1 Influenza pandemic. The novel virus was identified by the Binational Border Infectious Disease program



CDC Mexico is working to describe, quantify, and visualize domestic and international mobility patterns of farmworkers in the United States and Mexico

## CDC Quarantine Stations

CDC's U.S.-Mexico Unit (USMU) manages quarantine stations in El Paso, TX, and San Diego, CA. They are responsible for sea, air, and land ports of entry in the border regions of Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas. Quarantine stations are part of a comprehensive system that serves to limit the introduction and spread of infectious diseases into the U.S. USMU works to strengthen surveillance and laboratory capacity in the border regions and in Mexico. Binational collaboration improves our ability to identify pathogens, follow disease trends, and identify outbreaks.

## COVID-19

To enhance bilateral response coordination and strengthen capacity in core COVID-19 response activities, CDC supports the Mexican Secretariat of Health (SALUD) with \$3.168 million in funds through a cooperative agreement with the U.S.-Mexico Foundation for Science (FUMEC). Activities include conducting a SARS-CoV-2 serosurvey, epidemiological surveillance, risk communication, and analysis of population mobility in and through Mexico.

## Influenza

CDC Mexico played a key role during the 2009 H1N1 Influenza pandemic. CDC and the Mexico Health Secretariat have a decades-long Influenza surveillance collaboration that allows for early detection and identification of seasonal influenza viruses and novel influenza A viruses that may have pandemic potential. The collaboration also includes using technology to improve existing reporting tools.

## Disease Surveillance

CDC Mexico collaborates with the Binational Border Infectious Disease Surveillance (BIDS) program to improve disease prevention in the border region. The BIDS network helped identify the 2009 influenza pandemic H1N1 virus. BIDS assists with surveillance of binationally important infectious diseases, including tuberculosis, influenza, vector-borne diseases, and foodborne outbreaks. BIDS sites work with binational partners to share disease data and collaborate on binational clusters (groups of cases) and outbreaks.

## Binational Technical Working Group (BTWG)

The BTWG addresses public health concerns in the United States-Mexico border. Led by CDC Mexico, the group fosters exchange of information for situational awareness regarding infectious diseases in the border region. The BTWG identifies needs and assists with the development of binational public health initiatives or policies. This work is accomplished in collaboration with public health officials from U.S. and Mexico border states, the U.S. CDC, Mexico's Directorate of Epidemiology and the National Center for Preventive Programs and Disease Control.

## Tuberculosis

TB remains a leading global cause of infectious disease deaths. CDC provides technical support to fight TB in Mexico. The CureTB program main objective is to prevent TB cases and deaths among mobile populations. CureTB collaborates with health authorities throughout the U.S. and around the world to foster continuity of care for people with TB at their destinations. Health departments, healthcare providers, and others can refer patients to CureTB.

CDC Mexico also supports the National Action Program for the Prevention and Control of Tuberculosis with diagnostics for latent TB infection in high risk contacts to TB cases.

## Laboratory

CDC has several international laboratory projects in Mexico. Two TB projects aim to strengthen drug-sensitive and drug-resistant TB case detection in Sonora and Baja California, Mexico. The goal is to build capacity for national and state disease control programs to identify risk groups that would benefit from rapid molecular TB testing.

CDC global and domestic teams help update the national electronic surveillance system in Mexico. This update allowed for inclusion of patients with presumptive TB and drug-resistant TB and for inclusion of laboratory test results that were previously excluded.

## Migrant Health

In 2019, there were almost 11 million Mexican-born people living in the U.S. CDC Mexico works with CDC's Migrant Health Team within USMU to enhance the availability of public health surveillance for Mexican origin populations in the U.S. and to assess health needs and disparities. USMU collaborates with the Ventanillas de Salud Program, a health education outreach program implemented in Mexican consulates.

There are over 2 million agricultural workers in the U.S., and most (69%) were born in Mexico. A vulnerable subgroup are H-2A agricultural visa workers (277,000 in FY 2019) who travel for temporary farm work. Agricultural workers, considered essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, are at high risk of COVID-19 infection due to working and living conditions, underlying chronic conditions, and limited access to health care.

To assess health risks and implement effective public health interventions among agricultural workers in the U.S., it is critical to have information on their mobility patterns, including regions of origin and destination, routes used, duration of stay, mode of transportation and housing characteristics. CDC Mexico is working to describe, quantify, and visualize domestic and international mobility patterns of farmworkers in the U.S. and Mexico in collaboration with USMU's Migrant Health Team, COLEF (El Colegio de la Frontera Norte), Mexico's National Institute of Public Health, and JBS International and HHS (Health and Human Services).



### CDC STAFF

- 1 U.S. Assignees
- 1 Locally Employed



### AT A GLANCE

Population: > 127,000,000  
Per capita income: > \$19,870  
Life expectancy: F 78 / M 72 years  
Infant mortality rate: 11/1,000 live births

Sources:  
World Bank 2019,  
Population Reference Bureau



### TOP 10 CAUSES OF DEATH

1. Heart disease
2. Diabetes
3. Chronic kidney disease
4. Cirrhosis
5. Stroke
6. COPD
7. Interpersonal violence
8. Alzheimer's disease
9. Lower respiratory infections
10. Road injuries

Source:  
GBD Compare 2019, Mexico



For more country information  
[www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/Mexico](http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/Mexico)