

Binational Border Infectious Disease Surveillance Program (BIDS)

About BIDS

In 1997, CDC, the Mexican Secretariat of Health, and border health officials began developing the Border Infectious Disease Surveillance project based on the need for strengthened surveillance to monitor the spread of infectious disease in the border region. Two years later, the Binational Border Infectious Disease Surveillance (BIDS) Program was established.

As a binational effort, BIDS relies on local, state, and federal collaboration to enhance infectious disease surveillance, build border-region epidemiology and laboratory capacity, and strengthen binational communication systems to improve disease prevention.

CDC awards funding to BIDS sites at the local level, which carry out enhanced surveillance projects (sentinel- and population-based) with laboratory testing in the border region. This approach allows partners to:

- Tailor surveillance to local disease priorities;
- Focus on special populations such as binational or mobile populations;
- Detect potential outbreaks through early case confirmation;
- Provide public health interventions; and
- Work with partners across the border to develop and strengthen data sharing and communication systems.

At the federal level, BIDS helped lead the development of the U.S. - Mexico Guidelines for Cooperation, so that epidemiologic and public health information is shared between the United States and Mexico in a timely manner consistent with the 2009 International Health Regulations. BIDS compiles surveillance data on priority diseases into border-wide reports, and supports border binational infectious disease meetings for partners on both sides of the border.



Governance

To promote transparency and equal representation by grantees and stakeholders, BIDS convenes a steering group that meets two to three times a year. The steering group is comprised of members from each border state, one representative from participating CDC centers (National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Center for Global Health, and National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention), and one representative from the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE).

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Division of Global Migration and Quarantine



Mexico's participation is encouraged to promote binational cooperation. The role of the steering group is to:

- Provide scientific direction and guidance on priorities for allocation of resources;
- Review and approve proposed projects;
- Monitor the quality of surveillance and assure mutual accountability between CDC and surveillance sites;
- Provide updates on site activities and vote on key issues;
- Ensure effective communication with stakeholders;
- Advocate for binational projects;
- Provide an equitable process for resolving issues; and
- Represent BIDS in CDC's Emerging Infections initiatives.

BIDS Projects

BIDS funding recipients are primarily health jurisdictions encompassing sister cities in the 10 U.S.-Mexico border states. CDC awards funding to BIDS sites throughout the border region (mostly state and local health departments, including offices of border health) that implement projects based on local and program goals. Examples of site projects include binational case reporting, disease surveillance, as well as laboratory testing and training. To learn more about the projects in Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico, visit www.cdc.gov/usmexicohealth/bids/projects.html.

Laboratory Activities

CDC provides training opportunities to BIDS and other binational border health partners in the U.S. and Mexico to strengthen laboratory capacity by improving diagnostics and molecular techniques, implementing quality control and proficiency programs, and providing biosafety and biosecurity trainings to optimize laboratory response to public health events.

Since 1999, CDC has provided over 40 trainings to BIDS and binational border health partners on a range of topics, including viral hepatitis, measles, rubella, dengue, West Nile virus, influenza and other respiratory diseases, campylobacteriosis, rickettsial diseases, rabies, and lab database management, along with diagnostics and molecular techniques for diseases of interest such as foodborne illness. Trainings occur at CDC facilities, or CDC lab specialists will travel to field sites to conduct the course. CDC is also increasing capacity to offer laboratory trainings via the web.

Outbreak Response

BIDS partners play a key role in detecting outbreaks and facilitating binational investigations and control efforts in the border region. BIDS sites provide early warnings to local health department staff about outbreaks of measles, hepatitis A, rubella, dengue, and dengue hemorrhagic fever along the border region. Surveillance activities at BIDS sites helped better define the epidemiology and burden of hepatitis A, B, and C. Partners also helped control and document the decline and elimination of measles and rubella in the northern border region of Mexico. BIDS partners conduct ongoing influenza surveillance, contributing to cross-border preparedness for influenza and bioterrorism.



www.cdc.gov/usmexicohealth/bids
1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636); TTY: (888) 232-6348; www.cdc.gov/info