HEALTH AND THE BORDER REGION

We believe that the challenges and opportunities across the Border region demand informed civic participation, strong leadership and cross-border understanding, and collaboration. Our series of Border Briefs highlights issues and offers critical insight to drive new solutions and foster greater action for the Border region. The key takeaways below offer a glimpse into the challenges and opportunities that exist. Scan the QR code below or visit borderpartnership.org to read the full brief.

Key Takeaways:



16.8% *In 2019, U.S. health expenditures were 16.8% of GDP and Mexico's were 5.4% of GDP.* **5.4%**

- The health of Border residents has improved in recent decades, but **significant health disparities remain** within and between Mexican and U.S. Border communities.
- **High poverty rates, substandard housing, lack of water and wastewater infrastructure, large flows of migrants trapped at the Border, and inadequate access to health care** all contribute to health problems in the region.
- Numerous **Border residents access health care on both sides** of the Border but health care systems are poorly coordinated across the Border and are not well prepared for significant Border emergencies such as pandemics.
- Elimination of the Border health office of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and defunding the U.S. component of the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission devastated binational public health agency responses for the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, leaving the region **unprepared for the next transborder health emergency**.
- Crossborder use of health services and increased medical tourism in Mexican Border cities provides **more options for U.S. and Mexican patients**.
- **Drug trafficking violence and drug addiction** have produced a public health crisis in the Border region and nationally in both countries.
- Elimination of the Seguro Popular and prescription drug supply policy in Mexico by the López Obrador administration have worsened the **health care access crisis and shortages of medications**.

U.S.-MEXICO BORDER PHILANTHROPY PARTNERSHIP

The U.S.-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership is made up of more than 400 members from academia, business and corporate entities, government, philanthropy, and nonprofit organizations spanning all regions of the U.S. and Mexico. Together, we share a common vision and commitment for a thriving border region. Visit www.borderpartnership.org to learn more.

Read the full brief: