



EWIDS: Infectious Disease Surveillance Across International Borders

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EWIDS: Infectious Disease Surveillance Across International Borders

- Public health security is part of national security and early warning infectious disease surveillance is an important subset of public health security
- EWIDS: authorized by legislation following terrorist attacks of 9/11
- Enhance surveillance and epidemiological capabilities at both northern and southern borders



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- A highly communicable infectious disease outbreak such as smallpox would involve all 3 countries
- Need to improve cross-border detection, reporting and investigation of infectious disease outbreaks
- Need to create interoperable systems with Canada and Mexico



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- Funding provided by Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness (OS): \$4M – FY03; \$5.44M - FY04; approx. \$5.5M – FY05
- Strictly for surveillance and epidemiology of infectious diseases, including lab testing, IT and training
- Not for non-surveillance related, broader emergency preparedness or border health activities



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- Two components to EWIDS
 - 20 U.S. Border State Project
 - US-Mexico Border Health Commission

- Common goals
 - Improve surveillance in border region
 - Develop capability to launch epidemiological investigation promptly
 - Share surveillance (including lab) information
 - Provide for appropriately trained personnel



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- U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission
 - Funds allocated to 6 Mexican border states and Secretariat of Health (SOH)
 - Guidance jointly developed by HHS and SOH
 - Implementation proposals received and translated
 - Proposal review end of March



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- Importance of vertical and horizontal integration
 - Among federal, state and local officials
 - Among U.S. states at the border
 - Between U.S. border states and their international neighbor



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- Ongoing examples of multi-state collaborations
 - MI: conducted binational needs assessment in region on both sides of border
 - MI: convened EWIDS conference with Ontario that included MN, WI and NY
 - NY: partnering with VT, NH and ME; biweekly conference calls



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- New feature in FY05
 - Intended to formalize ongoing collaborations
 - Joint planning and submission of a common proposal
 - Describe range of activities to be carried on behalf of applicant states
 - Identify specific activities each state will undertake
 - Submit a consolidated budget



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- North American Initiative
 - EWIDS fits into this framework of trilateral endeavors
 - OPHEP will convene workshop involving U.S., Mexico and Canada
 - OPHEP already working closely with Mexico; will develop analogous relationship with Canada