

# Special MEZCOPH Seminar

Wednesday, September 26, 2012



**Mexico-Guatemala Border Health Service Learning**



Mel and Enid Zuckerman  
College of Public Health

# Service-Learning Faces and Places

- Experiential Learning
- Provides a needed service
- Bonds students to the community
- Personal transformation

## The Cone of Learning

sparkinsight.com

*I see and I forget.  
I hear and I remember.  
I do and I understand.*  
— Confucius



Source: Edgar Dale (1969)

# Service-Learning Course Objectives

- Demonstrate cultural understanding
- Draw comparisons between the Guatemala/Mexico and the Mexico/United States border regions
- Understand causes of migration and health effects on migrant families and communities
- Learn about sustainable development models
- Provide direct service and support local economies

# Service-Learning Reflections

## 3 Essential Questions:

- What are the common themes (economical, political, health, etc.) at each border separately and in connection? How do these affect the health of the people?
- How do systems interplay in fault and/or to benefit health?
- How can we advocate for public health through partnership?

# Service-Learning Reflections



# Itinerary

- Route

- Tapachula
- Salvador Urbina
- Tapachula
- Tecun Uman
- Malacatan
- El Carmen
- San Marcos/San Pedro
- Tapachula



# Day 1: Arrival in Tapachula, Mex.



# Days 2-3: Salvador Urbina, Mex.



# Salvador Urbina cont'd



# El Aguila



# Salvador Urbina



# Day 4 - Tapachula, Mex - IOM



# Tapachula, Mexico – Secretaria de Salud



# Day 5 - Tapachula, Mex. – Buen Pastor Migrant Shelter



# Tapachula, Mex. – Buen Pastor Migrant Shelter



# Day 5 – Malacatan, Guatemala



# Day 6 – San Marcos/San Pedro, Guatemala



# Day 7 – Scalabrini Migrant Shelter, Tecun Uman, Guatemala



# Day 7 – Tecun Uman, Guatemala / Ciudad Hidalgo, Mexico



# Day 8 – Tapachula, Mexico



# Root Causes and Health Effects

Comparisons between the Risks and Dangers of Migration along the  
Southern and Northern Borders

# Comparing the Risks and Dangers of Migration along the Southern and Northern Borders



# Contextual Objectives

- ⊗ Mission: Commitment to understand the root causes of migration, provide information to marginalized populations and understand the risks, dangers and health disparities this population faces, and assist in a manner that directly reflects the importance of human rights.
- ⊗ Goal: act with our international partners in the community to:
  - ⊗ Assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management.
  - ⊗ Advance understanding of migration issues.
  - ⊗ Encourage social and economic development through migration.
  - ⊗ Uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

# Root Causes of Migration

- ⊗ Economic
- ⊗ Family Reunification
- ⊗ Violence in home countries
- ⊗ Better conditions
- ⊗ Education
- ⊗ Natural Disasters
- ⊗ ‘People leave their countries to find a better future, but instead of finding a better future, they come across things they would never expect to find. It’s very sad for all of us because we are all suffering.’ Los Invisibles



## Family Reunification

- The second most mentioned and researched root cause of migration
- Effects on both those migrating for the first time and those that have been deported and are returning to the United States
- Increases in women migrating with children to reconnect with family



## Economic Root Causes

- Increase in job prospects
- Increase in access to education, health care, and increased levels of opportunity
- Betterment of opportunities for children
- Lack of access to jobs in home countries
- Increases in governmental corruption and violence leading to unsafe living conditions and economic implications

# Migrant Routes

Migrant Routes from the Southern Border of Mexico into the United States.

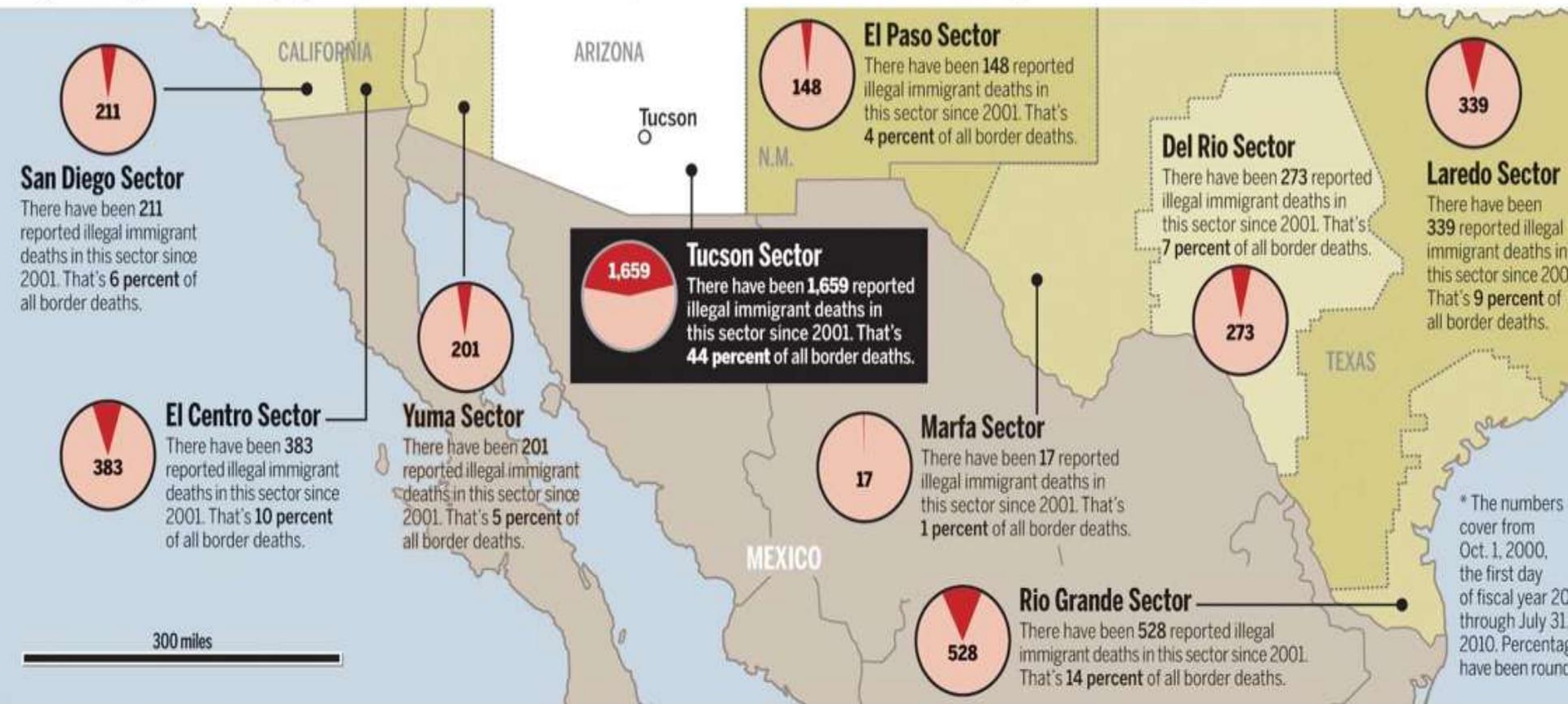


# Migrant Routes: Northern Border



# Illegal immigrant deaths, by Border Patrol sector

Covering 262 miles, the Tucson Sector has recorded nearly half of all deaths along the U.S.-Mexico border in the last decade.\*



\* The numbers cover from Oct. 1, 2000, the first day of fiscal year 2001 through July 31, 2010. Percentages have been rounded.



## Health Effects

Discussion on health effects on both borders, health effects on special populations, and the comparison and analysis of the composite health affects through the journey between Central America and the United States.



# Health Risks

## Risks on the Migrant Route

- Physical Injuries
- Lack of Access to care/ resources
- Dehydration
- Sexual Exploitation
- Drug Trafficking
- Assault
- Robbery
- Abandonment
- Kidnapping
- Torture
- Murder
- Mental Health
- Death





## Health Promotion among at-risk migrant populations

Talks and information distribution on the risks and dangers of migration, both on the Southern Border, and migration through the Arizona desert.

- Health promotion seminars regarding the risks and dangers of migrating to the United States
- Unaccompanied minors
- Discussions on root causes of migration; economic, political, and social implications





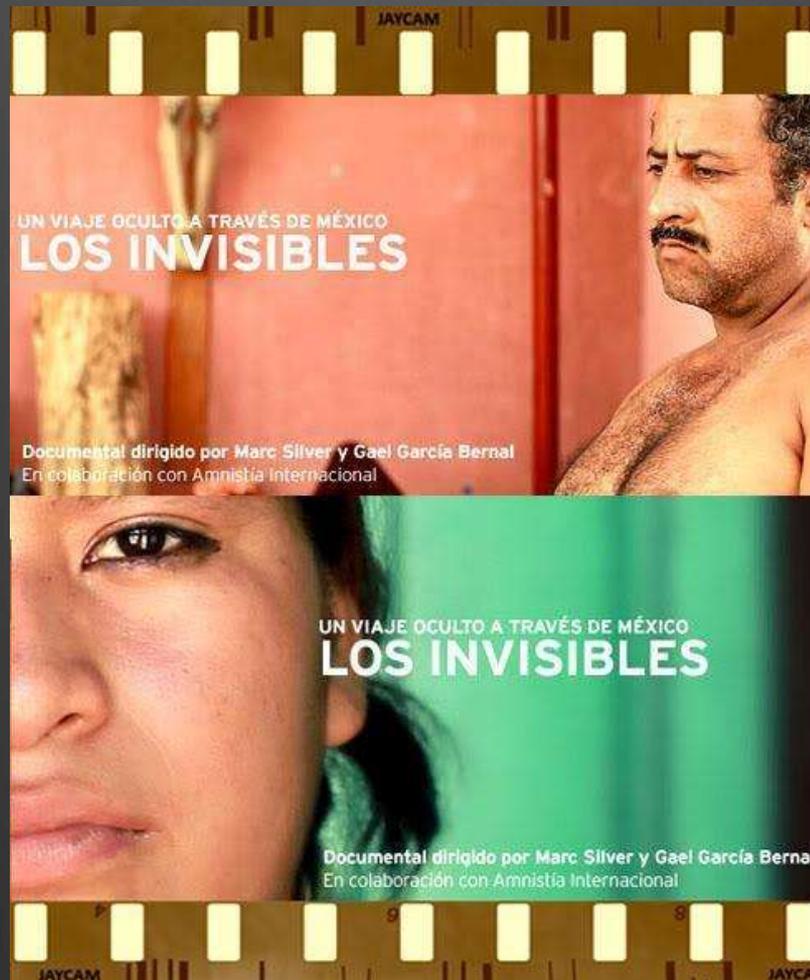


## Policy Recommendations

Provide information on:

- Drawing comparisons between both borders
- Migration protocol between inter-institutional governmental and non-governmental agencies
- Unaccompanied minors

# Los Invisibles



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ffjul7BC698>

# Common Themes

- Complexity
- Factionism
- Politics
- Social capital
- Teamwork & Partnerships
- Community engagement
- Communication
- Community development / sustainability

# Public Health Advocacy: Next Steps

- Raising awareness and generating support
- Sharing our experiences
  - Conferences
  - Community presentations
  - Information exchanges
- Extending service projects
- Bridging gaps and fostering partnerships
- Research/Internships/Thesis
- Going back and taking you with us

# Partnerships

## Course Partners

- Cafe Justo
- Frontera de Cristo / Migrant Resource Center
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Tapachula Regional Center for Public Health Research (CRISP)
- UA Zuckerman College of Public Health
- UA Global Health Institute
- UA College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture

## Collaboration Opportunities

- Service Learning
- Continual Resource Exchange
- Technical Assistance
- Student Internships
- Scholar/Student Exchanges
- Research



# Reflections

“Public Health Systems do not adequately respond to the needs of migrants. Not in the U.S. Not in Mexico. Not in Guatemala.”

**AMIGO MIGRANTE**

**PARA EL VIH/SIDA**



**NO EXISTEN FRONTERAS**

**QUEREMOS  
QUE ESTES  
INFORMADO**



**PROTEGETE EN CADA  
RELACIÓN SEXUAL**



**NO COMPARTAS  
JERINGAS**



**EL USO DE TATUAJES ES UN RIESGO,  
EXIGE AGUJAS DESECHABLES**

**¡ TU SALUD NOS IMPORTA !**



**JURISDICCION SANITARIA VII  
COORDINACION VIH/SIDA/ITS** 

“There is never just one reason why people leave; the stories are all so complicated.”







“There is so much connection among organizations, shelters and advocates...but it’s saddening to see there is so much disconnection too.”

CAFÉ  
**Justo**  
S.P.R. DE R.L.  
100%  
ARABICA  
ORGANICO  
CHIAPAS, MEXICO.





“Far too many people speak about immigration with little knowledge or understanding about the struggles and challenges immigrants face and how our state and national policies affect the lives of our fellow humans...

“Our work opened my eyes to realities I hadn’t imagined, and it would be irresponsible for me not to share this knowledge and experience with others.”



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EASY  
NA  
DESA

UNHCR  
ACNUR



“Whether they realized it or not, each person at that table was directly linked to one another: the farmers, the IOM, CRISP... while we U of A students were observing and gathering data to renegotiate how we view our own Sonora-Arizona border.

“And, perhaps most important of all, we were all forging new and lasting relationships in the name of bettering the world we live in.”





“It is imperative that people understand that migration is not something that will ever be quelled. People migrate for family, a chance at a better economic opportunity, a chance at a different life...”

“The conversation will never be over,  
nor should it...and human rights  
require that we continue to address the  
questions, and provide resources and  
information on risks and dangers to  
this resilient population.”

PRODUCT OF MEXICO









# Acknowledgements

Thanks to all of our course partners, faculty, fellow students, mentors, friends, families, hosts, and many supporters!

Daniel Cifuentes

Eri Cifuentes

Mama Yoli

Jaime Lopez

Adan Roblero

Luis Pelayo Diaz

Reynaldo Cifuentes

Isaac Cifuentes

Honorio Mesa Francisco

Netfali Cifuentes Perez

Felix Ventura

Arturito

Tommy Bassett

Pilar Deziga

Philip Kennedy

Lourdes Fernandez

Dan DeVivo

Luis Carlos Davis

Philip Burns

Luis Flores

Hector Morales

Walter Arriaga

Valdemar Gonzalez

Mario Morales

Ademar Barilli

Egon Hidalgo

Brenda Canastuj

Candido Carrillo

Walter Domingo

Sergio Menesses

Frida Quintino

Andres Espinosa

Rachel Hatcher

Lucia Lemus

Carolyn Beal

David Castillo

Jill de Zapien

Cecilia Rosales

Gail Emrick

John Ehiri

Neil MacKinnon

Iman Hakim

Douglas Taren

Gerri Kelly

Marianne Hadden

Monica Munoz

Jan Cervelli

Lauri Macmillan Johnson

Laura Huntoon

Pat Ferrer

Annabelle Nunez

Kara Hartzler

Barclay Goldsmith

Eva Tessler

Sofia Gomez

Robin Reineke

Julie Tippens

Josh Schachter

Kit O'Connor

Grace Harrison

Patricia Hohl

Elizabeth Funsch

Juliet Charron

Hayley Pines

Camille Yaden

Martin Celaya

Zoila Sanchez

Vivian Taylor

Hilary Rees

Raquel Bravo-Clouzet

Myles Stone

Jason Denholm

# Extra Special Thanks

Chris Tisch



Daniela Larson



## Student Clubs & Project Funders

Public Health  
Student Alliance



Mikhael Family  
Dr. Neil MacKinnon



# Discussion & Questions