

THE BINATIONAL SURVEY IN SAN DIEGO AND TIJUANA

John R. Weeks*

The International Population Center at San Diego State University has collaborated with the Department of Population Studies at El Colegio de la Frontera Norte to conduct a pilot study for a larger project called The Demographic Interrelatedness of the U.S.-Mexico Border Project. The pilot study took place in late 1988 and early 1989 in the San Diego-Tijuana metropolitan region.

Objectives. The overall objective of the larger research is to test the hypothesis that the northern border of Mexico and the southern border of the United States are demographically intertwined, representing a demographic zone distinct from the two constituent countries in terms of mortality, migration, and fertility, as well as in terms of population structure (especially age and sex) and population characteristics (including labor force status, educational attainment, and marital patterns). The pilot project itself had a specific set of research objectives, including the following:

- To test the feasibility of asking the same questions to samples of individuals on each side of the border;
- To assess the meaning and comparability of questions asked on the 1990 censuses of Mexico and the United States, particularly as the responses related to transborder behavior;
- To provide a basis for measuring the demographic flow of people toward and across the U.S.-Mexico border;
- To assess the factors that influence demographic behavior along the border, and;
- To provide a basis for measuring the extent of demographic interrelatedness of the two sides of the border, particularly as evaluated by census questions.

Topics Covered in the Questionnaire. The questionnaire included census-type questions about the demographic characteristics (age, sex, place of birth, citizenship, education, marital status, and labor force status) of all members of the household. Additional questions asked about each person's knowledge of English and Spanish, the frequency and reasons for visits to the other side of the border and, for people aged 15 and older, an abbreviated labor force and migration history, focusing especially on whether or not the household member had ever worked and/or lived on the other side of the border. From the head of households a listing was also obtained of the number of and type of relatives on the other side of the border.

•John R. Weeks. International Population Center. San Diego State University, San Diego, Ca 92182-0383 USA.

The questionnaire concluded with a limited set of questions about reproduction, asked with reference to all women in the household aged 15 or older, and with a global questions about household income.

Geographic Coverage. The pilot study obtained data from a sample of households in the metropolitan area of Tijuana, and from a sample of households in the South Suburban subregional area of San Diego. This latter area is contiguous to the U.S.-Mexico border and includes the communities of San Ysidro, Imperial Beach, and Chula Vista. We recognized that this not necessarily "typical" of all areas along the U.S.-Mexico border, but the regions were chosen primarily on the basis of convenience. Furthermore, we expect that the extent of interrelatedness between Tijuana and San Diego will be more limited than that which exists in almost all others along the border, so pilot study data will represent the minimum baseline of interaction.

Methodological Characteristics. In San Diego, a multistage cluster probability sampling method was employed. Within the study site, 246 census blocks were identified as having 50 percent or more Hispanic population, based on data from the 1980 census, update with regional forecasts provided by the San Diego Associations of Governments. These blocks constituted the stratum from which the first stage sample was drawn. The average number of Hispanic householders per block was determined to be 15. Since we wanted to ensure that at least 150 Hispanic householders were included in the sample blocks, five blocks were chosen a random with probabilities proportional to the size of the Hispanic population in the block.

The five blocks selected for the sample were then visited and enumerated to obtain a complete updated listing of addresses, names of householders, and other information to permit recontact. We enumerated a total of 1,025 households, of which 564 (55 percent) were Hispanic. These households were then listed and we employed systematic sampling with a random start to select the 150 households to be included in the sample.

In Tijuana a stratified random sample of 232 households was chosen from a household listing developed by INEGI in collaboration with COLEF. The sampling frame included the entire metropolitan area of Tijuana, stratified ecologically into three groups representing different levels (high, medium, and low) of household economic status. The selection procedure was a multistage cluster probability sample, with final sampling units chosen with a systematic method that assigned a probability proportional to block sizes.

Overall, the survey yielded data for a completed total of 232 households in Tijuana and 1,062 individuals residing in those households, and the 538 individuals residing in those households. In San Diego, we obtained data for 149 Hispanic households, and the 538 individuals within those households.

Project Status. The data collection phase of the project was completed

early in 1989, with data coding and entry on the computer completed by late spring 1989. The data reside in SPSS system file format on the computers at COLEF and at the International Population Center at San Diego State University.

Products from the Research. Researchers at both COLEF and SDSU have been utilizing the data set for the past year. The first product of the data was the final report to the funding agencies (The U.S. Bureau of the Census, and the S.H. Cowell Foundation-John R. Weeks and Roberto Ham Chande, with Norma Ojeda de Techner, Demographic Interrelatedness of the U.S.-Mexico Border Region, Final Report (San Diego: SDSU International Population Center), 1989. Papers from the research have also been presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America (New Orleans, 1989), the annual meeting of the Association of the Borderland Scholars (Tijuana, 1990), and the Reunión Nacional de la Sociedad Mexicana de Demografía (SOMEDE-Mexico City, 1990). To date, the most important use of the data has been as input to a proposal to National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to solicit funding for a large-scale three-site project along the border (San Diego/Tijuana, El Paso/Ciudad Juárez, and Laredo/Nuevo Laredo).

Availability of Data and Reports- Copies from the data, along with documentation and reports, are available to responsible researchers from the Director of the International Population Center, San Diego State University, San Diego, California, 92182-0383. There is a charge for the cost of reproducing the computer data diskettes and the supporting material.