

# Improving Population Health in the Rio Grande Valley (Texas) Team UTRGV - School of Medicine (SOM)

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## 2014 IPEC Outcomes

The 2014 IPEC Team developed a white paper as the major outcome of its work together during the 2014 meeting. The white paper and subsequent discussions have had a substantial impact on the new university, including the inclusion of an office of Senior Associate Dean for Interprofessional Education in the new School of Medicine.

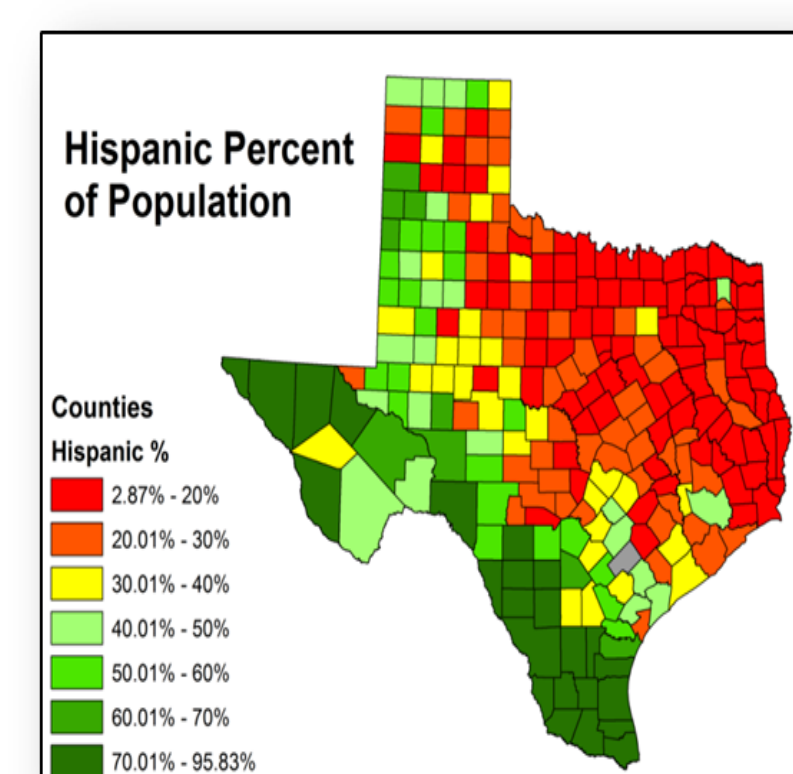
## Texas-Mexico Border



- Four largest counties:
  - El Paso
  - Hidalgo
  - Cameron
  - Webb
- Population: 2.25 million
- Population of Mexican sister cities: 3 million

## Unique region and dynamics

- U.S.- Mexico Border
- 90% Latino population
- Unifying two regional universities
- Developing new School of Medicine (SOM)
- Population health a major initiative of SOM
- Inter-professional education and practice are major commitments



## College of Health Sciences and Human Services

- Communication Sciences and Disorders (BS, MS)
- Nursing (BSN, MSN)
- Occupational Therapy
- Social Work
- Master of Science in Health Sciences (online)
- Physician Assistant Studies (MS) (ranked 38<sup>th</sup>)
- Rehabilitation Counseling (BS, MS, PhD) (ranked 17<sup>th</sup>)
- Two centers
  - Border Health Office: Community engagement
  - South Texas Border Health Disparities Center: Research

## UTRGV School of Medicine Mission

- The IPEC initiative is one way the UTRGV School of Medicine will achieve its mission to improve population health. The mission of the SOM is to:

Educate a diverse group of dedicated students who will become physicians who will serve across all disciplines of medicine; to bring hope to patients by advancing medical knowledge through research; to integrate education and research to advance the quality and accessibility of patient care in an integrated manner; and to engage with the Rio Grande Valley communities to benefit Texas.

## Consortium Partners (to date)

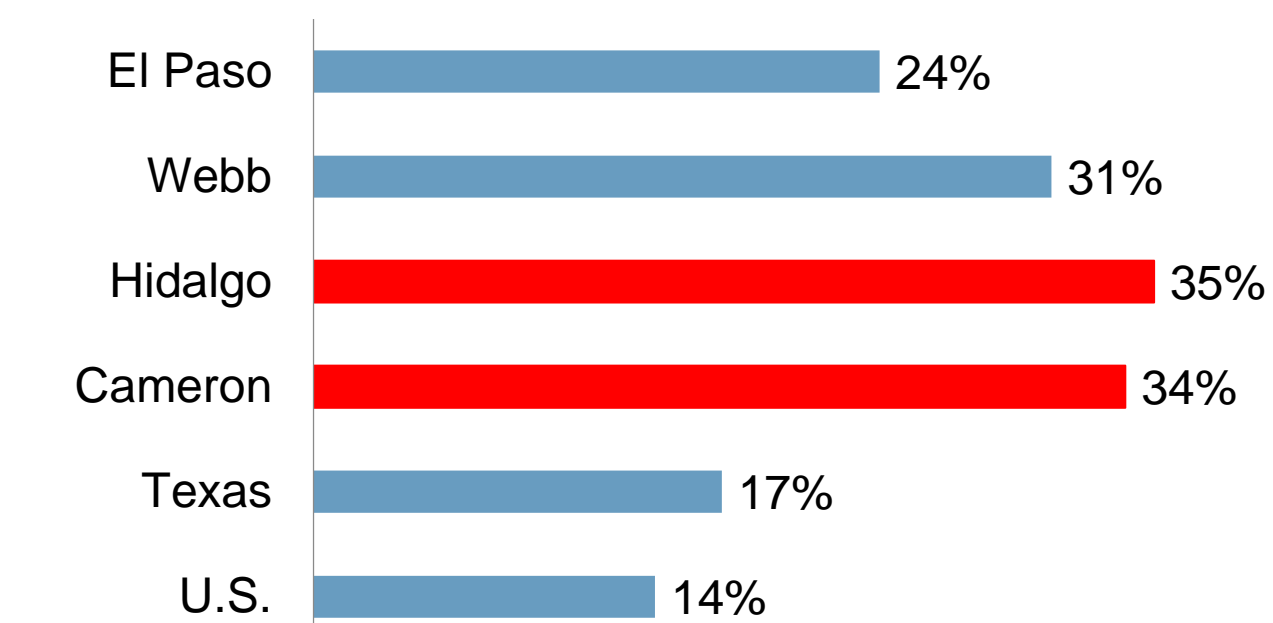
- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV)
- School of Medicine (UTRGV)
- University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio
- Hidalgo County Dept. of Health and Human Services
- City of Brownsville, Texas
- City of Edinburg, Texas
- City of McAllen, Texas

## Example of effective collaboration

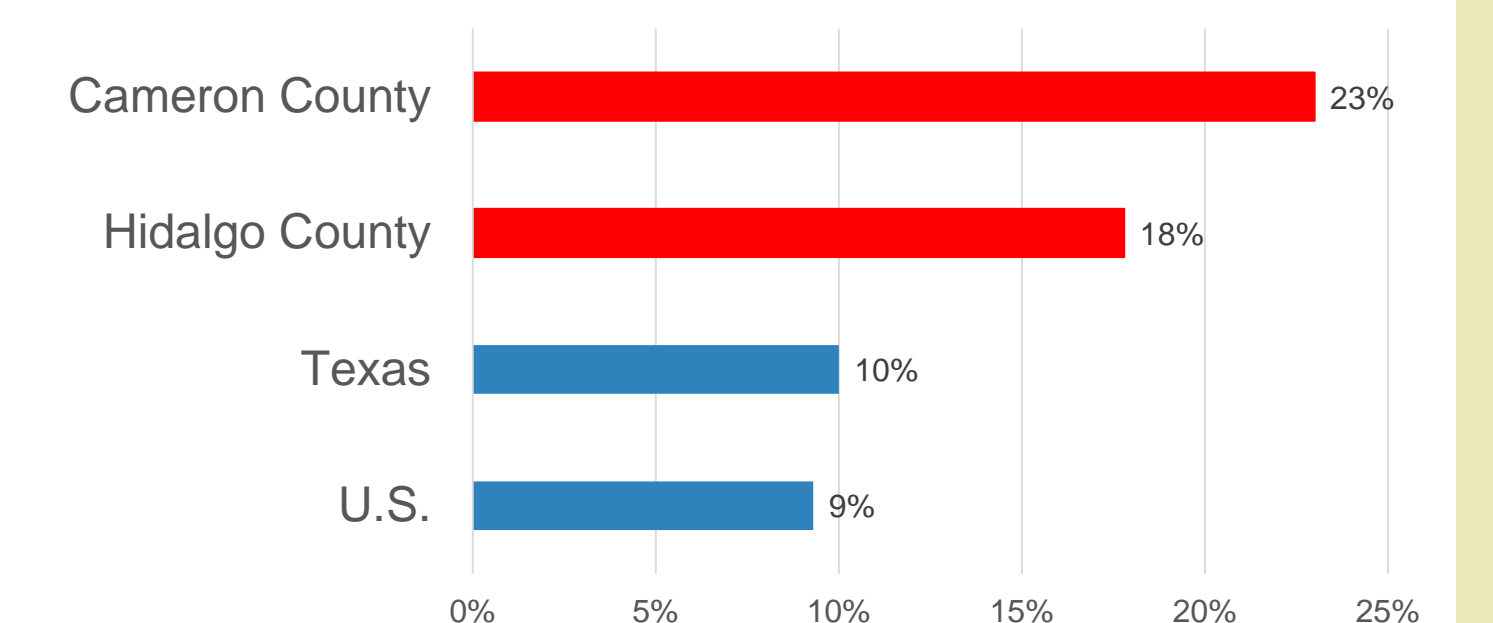
- Interprofessional health fairs held at local flea markets
  - Student and faculty members from Pharmacy, Nursing, Rehabilitation Counseling, Physician Assistant conduct free health screenings and provide health promotion information.
- Student IPE Case Scenario
  - Students plan and present a case from an inter-professional team-based perspective
- Infectious Disease Surveillance Program and Laboratory
  - Regional partners (University, County, City) are in the process of developing a regional infectious disease surveillance program. The program will include the development and operation of laboratory to test samples. Currently regional samples must be sent to other parts of the state or even out-of-state for testing, resulting in delays.
- STEER (South Texas Environmental Education and Research)
  - STEER transforms current and future health professionals by providing a compelling, community-based, educational experience that allows them to make the connection between the environment, public health and medicine.

## Baseline data of population health indicators in the RGV

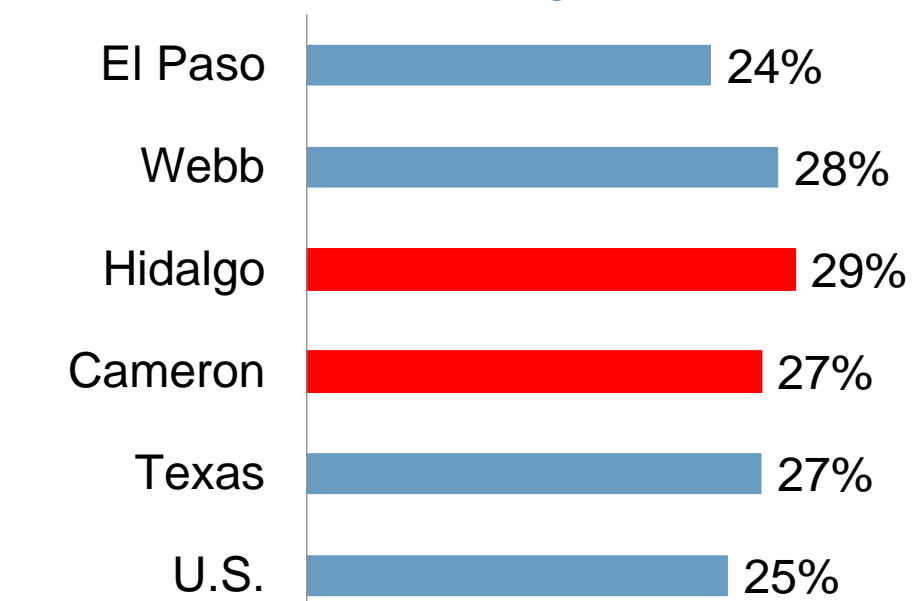
### Persons Below Poverty Level



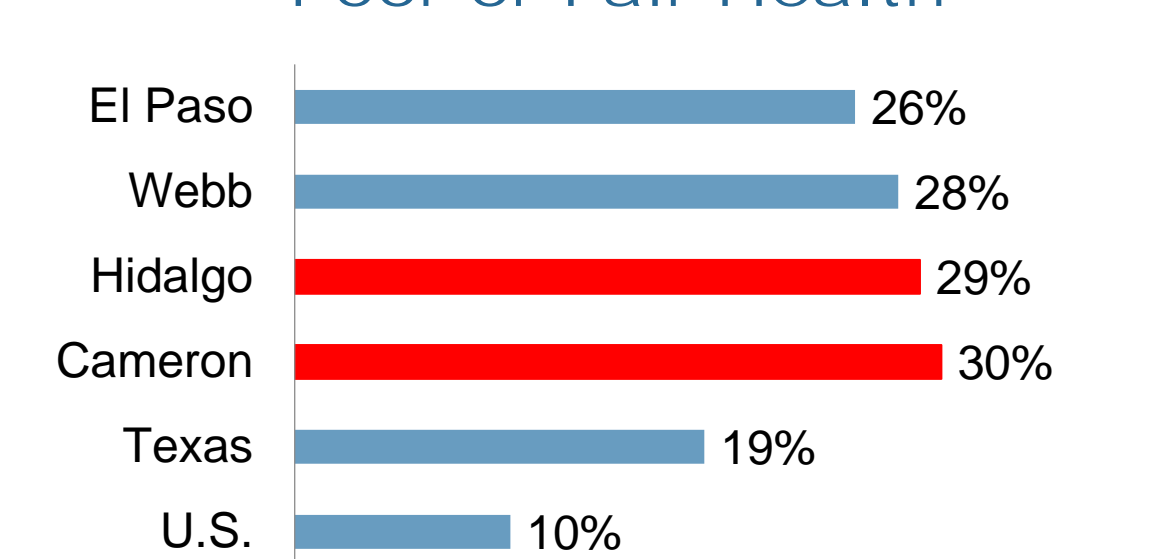
### Diabetes



### Adult Obesity



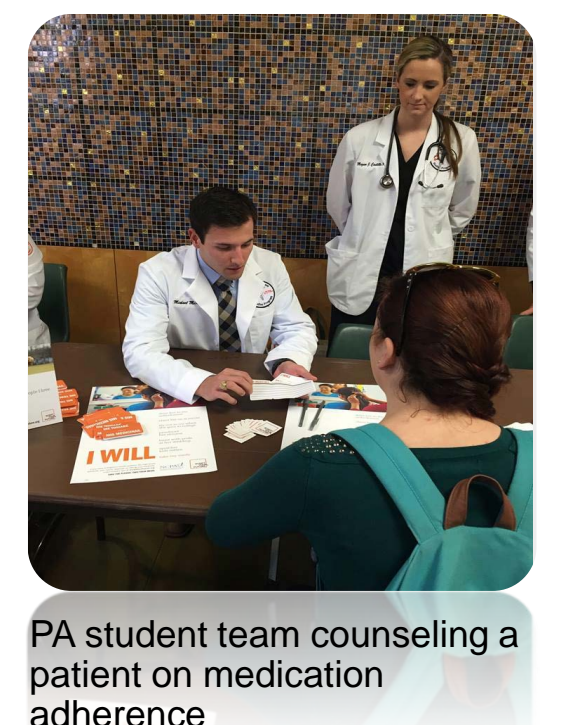
### Poor or Fair Health



## Integrated Student Health Teams

Teams of students and faculty preceptors from various disciplines collaborate to provide:

- Glucose screenings
- Cholesterol screenings
- Blood pressure screenings
- Disease education
- Diabetes Registry information
- Influenza vaccines
- Mini-physicals



## Student Perspectives on Integrated Health Teams

### Nursing:

- "This was a great experience, many different views coming together. A great way to improve health care for our community."
- "Collaboration is key to give good quality care to our patients."

### Physician Assistant:

- "Great experience...I look forward to next inter-professional event."
- "Learned a lot and enjoyed working with other professionals!"

### Pharmacy:

- "I look forward to seeing more inter-professional education!"
- "I would like to work with different professional students at every future health screening. The help of each student made the event run smoothly."