

citations for Tijuana facts & statistics:

- (1) "List of cities in Mexico" - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cities_in_Mexico
- (2) "Tijuana" - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tijuana>
- (3) "Blurred Borders..." - <http://www.icfdn.org/publications/blurredborders/documents/healthch7.pdf>
- (4) "Mexico Minimum Wage..." - <http://www.minimum-wage.org/international/en/Mexico>



Tijuana, BC, Mexico

- Tijuana is located along the US-Mexico border in Baja California, Mexico.



- Tijuana is the 3rd largest city in Mexico (1) & one of the fastest growing cities in the country (2).
- Tijuana has a official population of 1.5 million people (1), with an unofficial estimation of greater than 3 million.
- "A large transitory population exists in Tijuana due to border aspirations or deportations" (2).
- The majority of Tijuana's population are migrants from elsewhere in Mexico or Latin America (2).
- An estimated 1/2 of new residents in Tijuana live in overcrowded squatter communities with inadequate infrastructure & limited access to basic services (3).
- Poverty in Tijuana is "rising in disturbing proportions" (3).
- In Tijuana, the daily minimum wage for formal sector employment is the equivalent of about \$4.75/day (4).

our neighborhood: *Colonia Pedregal Santa Julia 3ra Sección*

I live and work in the 3rd section of *Colonia Pedregal Santa Julia*. As is common in Tijuana, our neighborhood began as a squatter community and thus experiences many of the challenges unique to such colonias. It is located in one of Tijuana's many canyons, with the houses built onto the hillside and held up by retaining walls of old tires. As the roads aren't paved and there isn't an adequate drainage system, mudslides are a problem during the rainy season. At least half of my neighbors do not have reliable electricity, water or sewage. Most families live hand-to-mouth, not knowing where the money for their next meal will come from. The majority of my neighbors work in the informal sector, as *chatarreros* ("scrappers" who drive or walk Tijuana's streets collecting, then sorting and selling, scrap metal) or street vendors, while others work in the many *maquiladoras* located on the outskirts of the city. Many children do attend the public elementary schools, though most of them do not continue past 6th grade. And far too many of the kids in my neighborhood come from broken homes - many living with parents who must work long hours or who are drug/alcohol abusers - so these kids are on their own for much of the day. Most people do not have access to basic preventative health care or follow-up for chronic illnesses. It breaks my heart that my friends and neighbors live in such difficult and seemingly hopeless circumstances.

