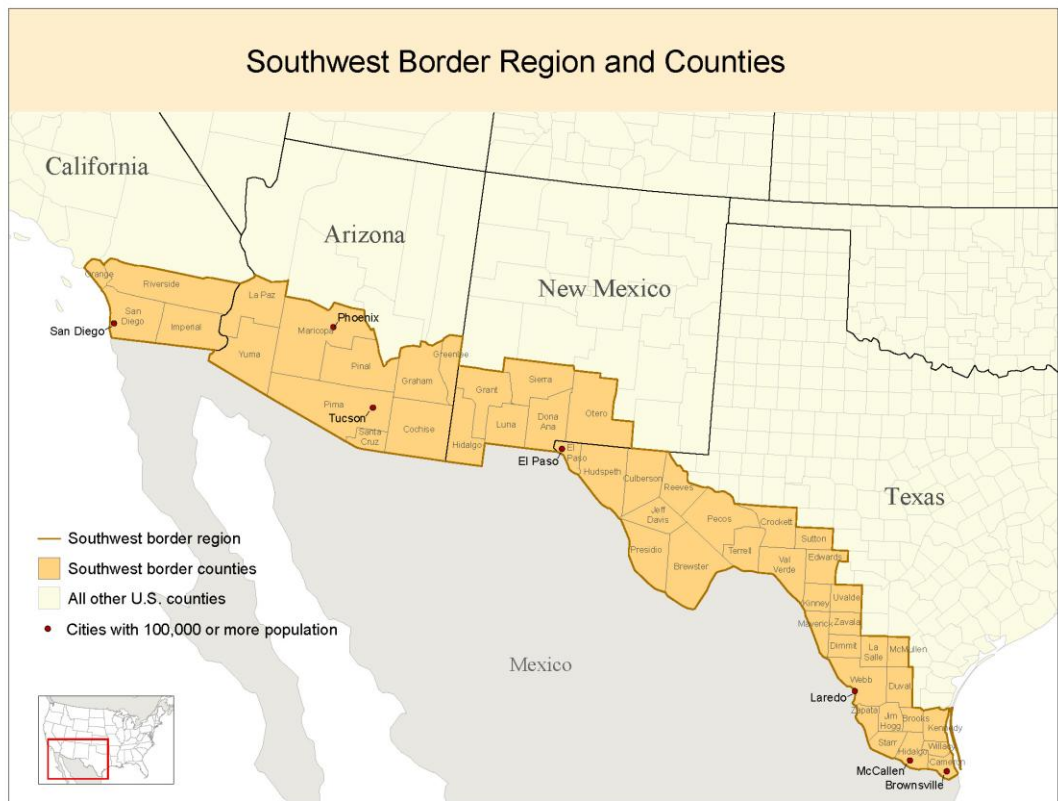**Extended Abstract for Poster Session**

Population Association of America Annual Meetings, April 11-13 2012

Authors: Thomas Gryn, Elizabeth Grieco, Steven Wilson

An Examination of Southwest Border County Populations in the United States

Counties in the United States which are adjacent to Mexico comprise a "borderland" area which is unique in the United States in terms of its population characteristics (Fernandez, 1991). This poster will use 2007-2011 American Community Survey data to examine the populations in those counties bordering Mexico and compare these to non-bordering counties in the states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Populations will be compared on a number of different characteristics such as age, ethnicity, educational attainment, and language proficiency.

Of the 360 total counties in California (58 counties), Arizona (15), New Mexico (33), and Texas (254), 23 counties have some portion of their county boundaries composed of the international border with Mexico. These counties, the 26 counties adjacent to them, will be referred to as "border" counties. Counties which do not share a boundary with Mexico (or are adjacent to these counties) in these states will be referred to as "nonborder" counties.

Southwest Border Region and Counties

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

Graphs and Tables

This poster will include presentation and discussion of the following graphs and tables to examine the nature of differences in the populations of border counties compared to nonborder counties:

- Nativity, border vs. nonborder area, 2007-2011

- Ethnic Composition, border vs. nonborder area, 2007-2011

- Region of Birth/Nativity, border vs. nonborder area, 2007-2011

- Age Composition, border vs. nonborder area, 2007-2011

- Educational Attainment, border vs. nonborder area, 2007-2011

- Language Proficiency, border vs. nonborder area, 2007-2011

- Labor Force Status, border vs. nonborder area, 2007-2011

References

Fernandez, Edward W. 1991. "The Hispanic Population of the U.S. Southwest

Borderland." U.S Census Bureau Current Population Reports: P-23:172.