



XVI Binational Health Week

“Because the right to health doesn’t have borders”

October 2016

Binational Health Week (BHW) has evolved into one of the largest mobilization efforts in the Americas to improve the health and well-being of the underserved Latino population that lives in the United States and Canada. During BHW, federal, state and local government agencies, community-based organizations and thousands of volunteers come together in the month of October to conduct a series of health promotion and health education activities including workshops, insurance referrals, vaccinations and medical screenings.

BHW fosters community solidarity by bringing together existing resources and thousands of volunteers working together for a common goal. The events are coordinated by the collaboration among Latin American consulates, community and government agencies from the U.S., Mexico and other Latin American countries with the purpose of reaching out to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people, especially those without medical coverage.

BHW main partners include the Secretariats of Health and Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, and Peru, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, several Departments of Public Health, the Council of Mexican Federations in North America, and the Health Initiative of the Americas, a program of the University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health.

Binational Health Week 2016

The sixteenth edition of BHW will take place during the month of **October** primarily in the United States. At the same time, BHW will be expanding to other countries such as Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Argentina, and Spain, among others thanks to the participation and leadership of the consular networks of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, and Peru. During BHW priority will be given to topics that are relevant to the Latino community which include: Infectious Diseases, Chronic Diseases, Access to Health Insurance, Mental Health, and Women's Health. The inaugural event will take place on October 4th in Tonalico, Mexico City.

Results from Binational Health Week 2015

In 2015, thanks to the leadership and coordination of the consulates of the participant Latin American countries, 1,780 events were organized, including health fairs, conferences, classes, and sports events. Approximately 325,600 people attended those events (65% female, 35% male). Close to 4,000 organizations and 11,000 volunteers joined this effort and about 60,000 health screenings and services were offered, including glucose, cholesterol, BMI, blood pressure, HIV, mammograms, breast exams, PAP smears, dental check-ups, vision check-ups, bone density, flu shots and other vaccinations, mental health screenings, health insurance enrollments and referrals, among other health related services.