



BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK

CANADA | UNITED STATES | MEXICO | GUATEMALA | HONDURAS | PERU | ECUADOR | COLOMBIA | BOLIVIA

MEDIA ALERT

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Binational Health Week 2011 October 1 – 16, 2011

For the eleventh consecutive year, federal and state government agencies along with community-based organizations and volunteers join forces once again to celebrate Binational Health Week (BHW) and deliver health promotion and education activities including health fairs, workshops, insurance referrals and medical screenings to the underserved Latino population living in the United States and Canada. As the recession continues to impact the lives of millions of people, the commitment and solidarity of the thousands of volunteers who are the backbone of this movement continues as strong as ever. It is estimated that this year over **600,000** Latinos in the United States and Canada will receive health services during BHW.

WHERE: Preliminary information from BHW coordinating agencies reveal that over **4,000** activities will take place, coordinated by **174** task forces in 40 U.S. states and 3 Canadian provinces, with the participation of the consular networks of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru. In total, more than 200 cities and towns (40 U.S. states and 3 Canadian provinces) will hold BHW activities through the work of over 7,500 agencies and 15,000 volunteers.

The Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Health will be held October 3-4th in San Antonio, Texas. This is the inaugural ceremony of Binational Health Week and will be led by representatives of participant countries, including the Mexican Secretary of Health Salomón Chertorivski and representatives of all participating countries. Over 350 people are anticipated to participate from key universities, county and community clinics, and legislatures.

WHAT: BHW calls for a renewed commitment to eliminating inequalities in the social determinants of health, with a focus on access to health services, insurance coverage and the prevalence of certain chronic and infectious diseases that disproportionately affect this population. There will be 450 health fairs and 110 events in clinics and hospitals, and 135 mobile units have been contracted to reach the most remote places where people have least access to health services.

BHW has launched five campaigns to promote awareness among the underserved Latino community: Women's Health (Latina immigrant women tend to be younger, with children, low-income, and with little health care access), Mental Health (substance abuse), Infectious diseases (high rates of Tuberculosis, Hepatitis A, and Hepatitis B along the U.S. – Mexico border), Chronic Disease (Heart Disease, Cancer, Diabetes, and Obesity), and Access to Health Care (of which Latinos have the least).

WHO: BHW partners include the Secretariats of Health and Foreign Affairs of Mexico, and the Foreign Affairs Ministries of Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, as well as the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, Mexico's National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT), Universidad Autónoma de México (UNAM), University of Texas at San Antonio, the UTSA Mexico Center, the YWCA, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California HealthCare Foundation, *Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas de Norte América* (COFEM), and the Health Initiative of the Americas, a program of the School of Public Health at the University of California at Berkeley.

WHY:

This annual event that began in 2001 has been instrumental in developing programs aimed at improving the health and well-being of migrant and immigrant workers and their families. Over its ten year history, BHW has delivered health services to over 3 million people. A large part of BHW's success is due to existing partnerships and networks, including clinics, community-based organizations, government agencies and volunteers.

A country's health includes the well-being of all the persons residing there. Ensuring that immigrants and their families have good health not only benefits this group in particular, but all of society. This is particularly the case for children—investment in their medical care will guarantee that future generations grow up in more equitable and dignified conditions.

BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK 2011 PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Type of Activities	Number of Activities
Access to Health Care Services	562
Infectious Diseases (STDs, HIV/AIDS, TB, Influenza, etc)	330
Chronic Diseases (Obesity, Nutrition, Diabetes, Cardiovascular, etc.)	500
Women's Health (Breast and Cervical Cancer, reproductive health, pre-natal care, etc.)	487
Mental Health (Depression, including Domestic Violence)	248
Disabilities (autism, etc.)	160
Occupational Health	159
Emergency Preparedness	93
Environmental Health	87
Oral Health	189
Other Cancer	218
Hearing/Vision	164
Other	149
Men's Health	144
Addiction , including alcoholism and drugs	110
Physical Activities	191
Vaccinations	106
Children's Health	176
Total Activities	4073

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