



More than 1,000 Events Will Take Place During **Binational Health Week** Throughout the United States and Canada

October 7-15, 2006

TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION IS A GLOBAL PHENOMENON that is rapidly changing demographics in many parts of the world. Activities of the **Sixth Annual Binational Health Week** are responsive to this large-scale trend, and to the changing profile and evolving health-care needs of Latino immigrant workers in the United States.

Binational Health Week is one of the largest mobilization efforts of federal and state government agencies, community-based organizations and volunteers in the Americas to improve the health and well being of the underserved Latino population living in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. It encompasses an annual weeklong series of health-promotion and health-education activities that include health-education workshops, health-care and health insurance referrals, medical screenings, and treatment services.



Binational Health Week is one of the largest mobilization efforts in the Americas to improve the health of underserved immigrants.

The week's events facilitate year round collaborations and builds networks between groups working on migrants and health issues. Activities are organized and implemented by grassroots, community-based organizations and agencies—the level at which these health promotion and education endeavors are the most effective in reaching the Latino population.

In its first five years, Binational Health Week was celebrated in the United States, Mexico and Canada. In 2006, Guatemala and El Salvador will participate in these efforts for the first time through their consulates and community agencies in California. This week of activities is intended as a first step in a larger program of cooperation amongst North American and Central American countries to improve the well being of immigrant workers and their families.

Binational Health Week has grown tremendously since its inception: from 7 California counties in 2001 to 31 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and 3 Canadian provinces participating this year. This expansion is due in large part to partnerships between the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, the Secretariats of Health and of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, El Salvador, and Guatemala, the California-Mexico Health Initiative (a program of the University of California), The California Endowment, and the California HealthCare Foundation, as well the formidable contribution of over **5,000 volunteers** and **1,500 agencies** that work year-round to organize the activities of Binational Health Week.

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FROM BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK 2006 coordinating agencies reveals that:

- More than **1,000** activities will take place in **31** U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and **3** Canadian provinces, an increase of more than **40%** from last year.
- Over **200** cities and towns in the U.S. and Canada are expected to hold activities.
- Events will include over **250** health fairs, **250** workshops and more than **80** mobile health clinics.
- Activities are expected to reach over **300,000** underserved Mexican and Central American immigrants and their families.
- **170** events will be geared towards children and adolescence and over **130** events will target agricultural workers.
- Activities will address a wide range of health topics including **254** events on nutrition/diabetes, **142** on access to services, and **126** on mental health.
- As a part of Binational Health Week, the XI Binational Public Policy Forum on Migration and Health will comprise over **400** participants including **234** member of the U.S. delegation representing 21 universities, **19** states, and **95** community organizations.

Past Binational Health Week evaluations have revealed that **47%** of participating immigrants and migrants received health-related services for the first time in the United States during Binational Health Week.