BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK

HEALTH INITIATIVE OF THE AMERICAS

CANADA | UNITED STATES | MEXICO | GUATEMALA | EL SALVADOR | HONDURAS | PERU | ECUADOR | COLOMBIA

MEDIA ALERT
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CONTACT: Nefer Kelley
510-643-4121
nefer@berkeley.edu

Binational Health Week 2009
October 3 – 15, 2009

For the ninth consecutive year, federal and state government agencies along with community-based organizations and volunteers will come together once again to celebrate Binational Health Week (BWH). During this weeklong event, health promotion and education activities such as workshops, insurance referrals and medical screenings are made available to the underserved Latino population living in the United States and Canada. During the current economic crisis, the commitment and solidarity of thousands of volunteers is even more noticeable this year. It is estimated that over 700,000 Latinos in the United States and Canada will receive health services during Binational Health Week. This is a FORTY percent more from last year!

WHERE: Preliminary information from BHW coordinating agencies reveal that over 5,000 activities will take place in 174 work groups in 40 U.S. states including the leadership from 140 consulates 7 countries. In total, more than 200 cities/towns (40 U.S. states and 3 Canadian provinces) will hold BHW activities through the work of over 9,000 agencies and 14,000 volunteers.

The Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Health inaugural event will be held October 5-6 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The inauguration of BHW will be led by representatives of participant countries, including Mexican Health Minister Jose Angel Cordova Villalobos and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson.

WHAT: BHW's campaigns for 2009 will focus on preparing for Public Health Emergencies with particular attention on generating awareness about the H1N1 flu. This year's campaigns will also focus on Prevention of Addiction, Improving Nutrition, Awareness of a Stroke and Living Green. Additionally, there will be 302 health fairs, 70 events in clinics and hospitals and 92 mobile health units have been contracted to reach the most remote places where people have least access to health services.

The international publication "Migration and Health: Children of Mexican Immigrants in the United States" will be released during BHW. The report was made possible through a collaborative effort of the National Population Council of Mexico (CONAPO), the Secretary of Health of Mexico, and researchers from the University of California: UC Berkeley School of Public through the Health Initiative of the Americas (HIA), the Migration and Health Research Center (MAHRC) a joint program of UC Berkeley and UC Davis; and UC Los Angeles, thorough the Center for Health Policy Research. The report documents that American children of Mexican immigrant parents in the U.S. are about three times more likely than other children in the U.S. to be uninsured. The report also describes how health and social policy for immigrants affects not only adult immigrants but also their children.

WHO: BHW partners include the Secretariats of Health and Foreign Affairs of Mexico, and the Foreign Affairs Ministries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, as well as the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, the Mexican Secretariat of Health and Foreign Affairs, the Mexican Social Security Institute, California's Department of Public Health, The California Endowment, the California Wellness Foundation, 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, coordinate events during BHW.

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 nine year history, BHW has delivered health services to over 1.5 million people and the numbers continue to grow dramatically. 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 living in it. The fact 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 the future of upcoming generations in more equitable conditions and therefore with more dignity.

BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK 2009 PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Type of Activities	**Number of Activities**
Infectious & Chronic Diseases	1554
Child, Women's & Men's Health	1222
Access to Health Services/Social Services	536
Prevention of Addictions	286
Specialized workshops	259
A/H1N1 Influenza and Emergency Preparedness	241
Environmental Health	223
Health Insurance	205
others	474
Total	**5000**

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