

X Annual Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Health

October 3-5, 2010

Overview

The X Annual Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Health will take place in midst of the celebration of the Bicentennial of Mexican Independence and the Centennial of the Mexican Revolution in the beautiful colonial city of Guanajuato, Mexico (October 3-5, 2010).

The policy forum is the launching event of Binational Health Week, an annual weeklong series of health promotion and health education activities that include workshops, insurance referrals, and medical screenings. Through the collaborative efforts of community organizations, state and federal agencies, and a multitude of volunteers, BHW has become one of the largest mobilization efforts dedicated to improving the health and welfare of the underserved Latino population living in the United States and Canada.

The forum's aim is to convene key stakeholders to discuss migrant/immigrant health challenges and to explore unique opportunities to work collaboratively to improve the health and well-being of this population. This event is co-sponsored by Mexico's Secretariats of Health and Foreign Affairs, and the Foreign Affairs Ministries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru, as well as the Institute of Mexicans Abroad, Mexico's Institute of Social Security, the National Institute of Public Health, California's Department of Public Health, The California Endowment, The California HealthCare Foundation, the Council of Mexican Federations in North America, and the Health Initiative of the Americas of the University of California.

Representatives from federal, state, and community organizations from participating countries are expected to partake, including elected officials, university administration (faculty, administrators, alumni, and students), union leaders, researchers, federal and state agency directors, media organizations, and other key public and private stakeholders. The forum will address the following five topics: migrant health, health systems, the health and human rights of migrants, alliances and migrant health programs, and the participation of civil society organizations on migrant health.

Background

The IX Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Health was held in Santa Fe, New Mexico on October 5-6, 2009. Forum participants included members from about 150 agencies such as community organizations, government officials, and universities that came together to discuss the challenges facing immigrant communities. The international delegation was composed of 70 participants from 6 countries: México, Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia, Ecuador, and Perú. Representatives of 21 universities attended as well. Forum topics included mental health, response to public health emergencies and migrant populations, infectious diseases, including TB and HIV, obesity and diabetes, occupational health and safety, access to health care, and environmental health challenges and migration.

For details of the forum visit: <http://semanabinacionaldesaludguanajuato.org.mx/>

