



School of
Public Health

MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADVANCING THE HEALTH OF IMPERIAL COUNTY THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY

WHAT: A public policy briefing and presentation of health-related information that will discuss health policy opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of Imperial County residents.

The Objective of the briefing is to discuss policy recommendations that could help advancing the health of the Imperial County residents.

A new study, "*Imperial County Health Status Report 2008*" will be presented. This report and other recent research to be presented highlight the ongoing health challenges faced by Imperial County residents. The major findings show that access to health care in Imperial County is inequitable and linked to ethnicity and socioeconomic status. Also, environmental and economic conditions are key contributors to health disparities in Imperial County.

The current health status of Imperial County will be also addressed. The event will conclude with policy recommendations provided by the key stakeholders attending the meeting.

WHO: University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health through the Health Initiative of the Americas (HIA), the California Program on Access to Care (CPAC), and the office of California Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny

WHEN: **Friday February 6, 2009**, 10am to noon, at the Holiday Inn Express, Conference Room "A" 350 Smoketree Dr., El Centro, CA. (Xochitl Castañeda Tel: 510-409-8815)

WHY: Latinos in the U.S. are the largest and youngest ethnic minority in the country, yet they remain the least insured group and have the largest limited access to health care services. The U.S.- Mexico Border Region is distinguished from the rest of the United States by distinct health issues and increased levels of poverty and environmental contamination. Forums and briefings such as this one are fundamental to provide the opportunity for local organizations and health advocates to call legislator attention to the ongoing health challenges faced by the community, in this case Imperial County, whose residents are Latinos in a significant proportion.

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