



## Autism Awareness Campaign Guide Binational Health Week 2010

### Objective

- Raise awareness on the disparity Latinos with autism face in terms of age of diagnosis and healthcare access.
- Inform the Latino community of the importance of early detection to minimize the impact of autism and refer families to resource available to those with autism.

### Background

- Minimizing the effects of autism is dependent on early diagnosis and treatment.
- Latinos are not getting the specialized services they need quickly or efficiently enough to mitigate the symptoms of autism.
- Studies have shown that there is a disproportionate under-representation of Latino children with autism in the special education system.
- Statistics have shown that between 25% and 50% of children receiving intensive early intervention will move into general education by Kindergarten. Furthermore, many other in early intervention will need significantly less service provision in future years.

### How to incorporate campaign into BHW

- Contact and invite local clinics and providers specializing in autism to participate or donate materials
- Invite local autism support groups to participate. For example, local chapter of:
  - <http://www.autismspeaks.org/>
  - <http://www.autism-society.org/>
- Help establish a support group for Latino parents where such a group is non-existent
- Workshops open to the general public held at clinics that specialize on providing services to children and adults with autism
- Panel of stakeholders (community agencies, legislators, health departments, research institutes, etc.)

### Campaign Kit Material

- Video capsule
- PSA for radio
- Factsheet: Autism and Latinos
- Campaign Poster
- Guide for Promotoras
- Various informative factsheets and pamphlets from the CDC

## **Available Resources**

### ***Autism Speaks***

A national organization made up of local chapters that provide information concerning autism to family members of children with autism, healthcare providers, and people diagnosed, as well as providing, a means of support for parents with children with autism.

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/>

### ***Autism Source***

A resource database established in 2004 dedicated to providing the most comprehensive database of resources related to autism.

<http://www.autismsource.org/>

### ***CDC's Autism Website***

This website created by the CDC focuses on providing information for Spanish speaking people concerning autism.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/Spanish/autism/index.html>

### ***Autism Society***

National Organization dedicated to providing information concerning autism and provide support for parents with children with autism. This website is available in English and Spanish.

<http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=autismo>

### **National Institute of Mental Health Autism Website**

Website created by the National Institute of Mental Health. The website provides information in many different forms and for a diverse population.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/topics/topic-page-autism.shtml>