



Forum on Migration and Global Health kicks off Binational Health Week

October 2, 2015

On Monday, October 5, the Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Global Health will launch the 15th annual Binational Health Week (BHW), an annual week-long series of health promotion and health education activities that include workshops, insurance referrals, and medical screenings. BHW has become one of the largest mobilization efforts of government agencies, community-based organizations, and volunteers in North America to improve the health and wellbeing of underserved Latinos living in the United States and Canada.

The 15th Policy Forum, held in Oakland at the California Endowment, will bring together government officials, legislators, researchers, media, community representatives, and professionals from the United States, Mexico, and Latin-American countries. Over 400 participants will discuss immigrants' health opportunities and challenges aiming to explore collaborative strategies to enhance the health of this population. Topics to be addressed include chronic diseases, infectious diseases, violence from the public health perspective, occupational health, and access to health care.

A new report: *Migration and Health: Profile of Latin Americans in the United States* will be released during this event. It highlights that over 48 percent of the Latin American immigrants without U.S. citizenship are excluded from the health system. Among the immigrants without health insurance, 1.9 million have been diagnosed with diabetes mellitus. It is also pointed out that 3.3 million of this population lives in poverty. This report is a joint effort between the National Population Council of Mexico (CONAPO), the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, and the UC Davis Health System. BHW is made possible through the coordinating efforts of the Secretariats of Health and Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, Venezuela, Peru and Uruguay, and the Health Initiative of the Americas, a program of the UC Berkeley School of Public Health.

There will be a press conference held at 10:30 a.m. at the Policy Forum. If you wish to attend, please contact **Esteli Garcia**, (510) 643-7055 or (510) 931-3794 or andreaesteli@gmail.com.

Related information:

- [Binational Health Week website \(http://www.binationalhealthweek.org/\)](http://www.binationalhealthweek.org/)

