



X BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK
OCTOBER 3-15, 2010

KEY MESSAGES

1. The United States is a nation of immigrants. **Over half (53%) of the foreign-born in the U.S. are from Latin America or the Caribbean.** In 2008, the immigrant population from Latin America and the Caribbean reached 20 million (American Community Survey; 2008).
2. Latinos in the U.S. are the most numerous and youngest ethnic minority in the country, yet they have the lowest rates of health insurance and the most restricted access to health care services. The insufficient social protections provided by federal and state governments for this group have given rise to social mobilizations for health such as Binational Health Week, that seek to improve the access to care, health promotion, and a reduction of inequities in the social determinants of health for this population.
3. **The migratory process is a social determinant of health.** From preparation for the journey to eventual acculturation in the receiving country, immigrants and their families have special health needs.
4. **One in every 4 children under 18 years old in the United States has at least one immigrant parent.** Most of the children of immigrants are U.S.-born citizens (85%), yet they face greater barriers to obtaining health insurance and health care than those children without immigrant parents.
5. **BHW promotes binational policy collaboration.** Immigrants contribute economically and socially to their countries of origin and their host countries. The policies of both countries ultimately have an impact on immigrants' health and wellbeing.
6. **Binational Health Week is an internationally recognized model for good practice in binational collaboration for migrant health.** It is estimated about one million people will be served during Binational Health Week, via more than 5,000 health activities or services, mobile clinics and health promotion workshops.
7. This year's special focus is on Access to Health, Addiction and Gang Prevention, Autism, Obesity and Diabetes, Occupational Health and Oral Health.

For more information on local and regional events, visit:

www.binationalhealthweek.org or www.semanabinacionaldesalud.org