

## REPORT

### Inauguration and Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Global Health

**XV Binational Health Week**  
SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

*Fifteen years working for your health*

For fifteen years, Binational Health Week (BHW) has aimed to respond, from an equity standpoint, to the opportunities and challenges faced by Latinos living in the United States and Canada. Since its inception in 2001, the Secretariats of Health and Foreign Affairs of Mexico have led this effort with the collaboration of the Health Initiative of the Americas of the University of California at Berkeley, School of Public Health. Over the years, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, and several Latin-American consulates, have joined BHW, expanding the impact of the program to thousands of immigrants in the U.S. and Canada.

**12**  
Participating  
Countries

 **BHW has reached over 5 million people**

Today, BHW is one of the largest mobilization effort in the Americas improving the well-being of the Latino population. To achieve this goal, thousands of health events such as workshops, health fairs, and medical screenings take place every October. During the last 15 years more than five million people have received direct services as well as health prevention and promotion information.

Thanks to the collaboration and support of thousands of government agencies at the federal, state, and local level, community organizations, and public and private organizations, BHW has become an international catalyst for sustained cooperation, building and solidifying social networks that reach year-round beyond BHW. These partnerships also have a positive economic and social impact in the countries of origin, transit, and of destination, in addition to benefiting underserved families.

#### ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



# The BHW Forum over the years



The Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Global Health is the launching event of Binational Health Week. The goal of the forum is to convene key stakeholders from the United States, Mexico, and Latin-American countries to discuss migrant health challenges and to explore unique opportunities to work collaboratively to improve the health and well-being of this population. Topics that are addressed include: chronic and infectious diseases, access to healthcare, mental and occupational health, and violence from the public health perspective. The event had three main components:



# 1 Welcoming Reception



The activities began on Sunday, October 4th with a welcoming reception offered by the General Consulate of Mexico in San Francisco under the direction of Dr. Andres Roemer, Consul General of this entity. Over 200 people were present at this event, including representatives of the participating Latin American countries. Dr. Stefano Bertozzi, Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of California at Berkeley; Dr. Jaime Sepulveda, Executive Director of Global Health Sciences at the University of California at San Francisco; Dr. Pablo Kuri Morales, Sub-secretary of Promotion and Prevention at the Mexican Secretariat of Health; Dr. Diego Gonzalez, a representative of the Pan-American Health Organization and Dr. Mercedes Juan, Secretary of Health of Mexico spoke of the importance of migration in the countries of origin, transit and destination. The event culminated with a culinary display and cultural show.

Participating Countries

## 2 Bilingual Policy Forum

The event took place on October 5th at the California Endowment located in Oakland, California. More than 400 people representing close to 280 public, private and academic entities from the United States, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Brazil and Chile participated in this event.

The forum was inaugurated by the Secretary of Health in Mexico, Dr. Mercedes Juan and the Secretary of the California Health & Human Services Agency, Diana Dooley. Both dignitaries expressed that the health of migrants is a priority for both countries, not only due to their contribution and effect in their respective countries, but also because of the opportunities and challenges that these

migrants and their families face in regards to health. Dr. Kim Wilcox, Chancellor of the University of California, Riverside; Melissa Stafford Jones, Regional Director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Francisco de la Torre, Executive Director of The Institute of Mexicans Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and in representation of the rest of the Latin American countries who participated in BHW, Roberto Archila, Consul General of Guatemala in San Francisco, also participated in this part of the event. In addition, Assemblymember Tony Thurmond Representing the 15th California Assembly District and the California Latino Legislative Caucus presented two proclamations that emphasize the importance of BHW.



**Close to  
280 entities  
were present**

### Plenary Presentations and Posters

The academic portion of the forum began with Dr. Marc Schenker, professor at the University of California, Davis, who presented a global vision of migration, with an emphasis on the North American continent. Special attention was put on the health challenges that migrants face, with an emphasis on inequality.

Afterwards, Matías Jaramillo, General Director of Planning on Population and Development, National Population Council of Mexico (CONAPO) presented the 2015 report on “Migration and Health: Profile of Latin Americans in the United States”. This document was produced with the collaboration of CONAPO, the Health Initiatives of the Americas, a program of the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, the UCLA School of Public Health and the UC Davis School of Medicine.

Finally, Dr. Cuitláhuac Ruiz Matus, General Director of Epidemiology of the Mexican Secretariat of Health described the challenges and successes that Mexico has faced in light of the recent epidemics related to mobile populations.



## 8 Binational Research Projects



During the lunch, offered by the Mexican Secretary of Health, eight binational research teams funded by the Research in Migration and Health Program (PIMSA, for its acronym in Spanish) presented posters of their research findings in different areas related to migration and health. The topics included were:

1. Meanings, Contexts and Implications of Tattoos for Mexican Deportees Undergoing Gang Tattoo Removal (UCSD, UCB, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California)
2. No health without mental health: Participatory development of a health promotion initiative (El Colegio de la Frontera, University of Arizona, CSU San Diego, El Colegio de Sonora Alexandra Angulo)
3. Mental Health of US Citizen Children in Mexican Immigrant Families (University of Texas, Austin, UCD)
4. Binational Health Reach: Website to retain in care HIV Positive Mexicans in Transit (SFAF, Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas, CSU San Francisco)
5. IBIZA Health Assessment: Health Assessment of Zacatecans living in the US (SFAF, Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas, CSU San Francisco)
6. The Ulysses Syndrome among Economic and Political Migrants from Mexico and Central America (University of Texas, El Paso, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez)



## Working Sessions

Following lunch, most of the afternoon was divided into eight workshops which covered five different topics, which included: Access to Health Services, Chronic Diseases, Infectious Diseases, Occupational Health, and Violence from a Public Health perspective. Each session had a binational panel which consisted of two experts and one moderator:

### 5 Health



### Topics



#### 1. Access to Health Services

- Carmela Castellano-García, CEO, California Primary Care Association
- Dr. Jorge Santibáñez, CEO, “Juntos Podemos” Foundation
- Dr. Richard Figueroa, Director of Prevention & the Affordable Care Act, (TCE).
- Dr. Gudelia Rangel, Deputy Director for Migrant Health, Mexican Secretariat of Health

#### 2. Chronic Diseases

- Dr. Robert Lustig, Professor, UCSF School of Medicine
- Dr. Jesús Felipe González Roldán, General Director for Disease Control and Prevention, Mexican Secretariat of Health
- Dr. Sylvia Guendelman, Professor, UCB School of Public Health
- Dr. Gerardo Gamba, Research Director, National Institute of Medical Science and Nutrition, Mexican Secretariat of Health



### 3. Infectious Diseases

- Dr. Steffanie A. Strathdee, Associate Dean of Global Health Sciences, Director of the UC San Diego Global Health Initiative
- Dr. Cuitláhuac Ruiz Matus, General Director of Epidemiology, Mexican Secretariat of Health
- Dr. Esmeralda Iniguez-Stevens, Program Coordinator, Infectious Disease and Epidemiology, Office of Binational Border Health, California Department of Public Health
- Dr. Jesús Felipe González Roldán, General Director, National Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Mexican Secretariat of Health

### 4. Occupational Health

- Michael Flynn, Public Health Advisor, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
- Paula Leite, Deputy Director of Immigration Study Centers, Policy Migration Unit, Mexican Secretariat of Government

### 5. Violence

- Dr. Michael Rodríguez, Professor and Vice-Chair for Research, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
- Dr. Corina Benjet, Professor and Researcher, National Institute of Psychiatry, Mexican Secretariat of Health

## Conclusions and Public Policy Recommendations

The academic portion of the event concluded with a plenary session where moderators from each topic presented a summary of their workshops and the public policy recommendations.

### Access to Health Services

1. Comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level which guarantees basic medical insurance and service to all newly documented individuals.
2. Joint U.S. and Mexico efforts to support and fund local efforts of education, engage the Latino population in citizenship and voter registration drives, and encourage community participation in each.
3. Support legislation directing appropriate state agencies to set aside funds as community contributions from key HMO merger agreements in California.
4. Following the recommendations that came from the California Endowment in their campaign “Health for all/Salud para todos”, the process in California has begun to provide services through the MediCare program to undocumented children, but efforts must continue to encourage health for all. Not only access to insurance, but appropriate access to health care services with support from community health care services and other institutions to keep them out of emergency rooms.
5. Work closely with Ventanillas de Salud and other efforts being made by the government of Mexico aboard to channel resources and efforts around migrant health issues, specifically chronic diseases prevention.





## Learning in Action

### Chronic Diseases

1. Bring to primary care the public policies that Mexico has, both in the health and education sectors, in order to reduce the levels of pre-obesity and diabetes.
2. Increase public awareness of the risks that come with a poor diet and high sugar intake through community health workers and health professionals.
3. Reduce obesity and obesity-related diseases by implementing small projects such as farmers markets and physical activities in schools.
4. Provide adequate information about the risk of kidney disease in relation to diabetes in order to prevent complicated and more expensive kidney transplants and treatments.

### Infectious Diseases

1. Develop binational investigations to follow-up with patients that are diagnosed with latent TB in high risk populations.
2. Develop collaborations on both sides of the border with diverse health care providers, thereby maintaining and solidifying the existing channels of communication between both countries.
3. Consider the border as an area of high prevalence of disease and vulnerability due to the constant flux of people. Develop conjoined vigilance efforts as a point of high priority for mutual benefit.
4. Develop databases accessible to researchers and program directors on both sides of the border.

### Occupational Health

1. Increase visibility regarding occupational health by collecting data at governmental level, clinics, and other ways such as media, to look at the impact of immigrant workers. Visibility can be an effector of change and strong recommendations to look at the conditions that exist, whether it is a single case, industry or population.
2. Recommend measures to give equal protection to immigrant and non-immigrant workers.
3. Work binationally. Many of the issues are common with U.S. and other Latin American countries and there is a need to work together to collect data and come up with solutions to address these disparities in the workplace.

### Violence

1. Address the issue of violence at a multi-sectoral level, throughout lifespan, and give more attention and visibility to the resource of masculinity.
2. Continue exploring the protective factors that migrants have in relation to violence.
3. Include families of migrants in research regarding migrant violence and mental health.
4. Recognize the need to address oppression and the violent factors in society; learn how to document and investigate them in order to be able to promote the findings.
5. Address the stigma associated with mental health, as an issue that needs research and documentation as well as actions to help reduce it.

The presentations as well as the conclusions are available online: <http://binationalhealthweek.org>



# 3 Latin American Style Gala and Dinner



The gala dinner at the Saint Mary's Cathedral concluded the event. Welcoming Remarks were given by Dr. Barbara Garcia, Director of Health, San Francisco Department of Public Health; Dr. Roberto Tapia, President and CEO of the "Carlos Slim" Foundation; Castulo de la Rocha, President and CEO of AltaMed Health Services Corporation and Dr. Pablo Kuri Morales, Undersecretary of Prevention and Promotion at the Mexican Secretariat of Health. The event had several musical performances, including: Alejandra Paniagua, an artist, singer, guitarist and composer from Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico as well as the Peruvian group "De Rompe y Raja". The rest of the night consisted of a Latin American Style dinner and dance.

## BHW in the Media



1600 Total  
Media Hits

Since its inception, BHW has prioritized strategic media campaigns to raise public awareness of migrant health issues and to promote healthy behavior among immigrant families. BHW conducts Radio and TV presentations on chronic diseases such as diabetes and obesity, infectious diseases, violence from the public health perspective, occupational health, and access to healthcare among others; the campaigns also served to disseminate the BHW calendar of activities and to invite the general public to participate in the events.

Below is a list of how the XV Inauguration and Binational Policy Forum was featured in the media:

- Television announcements, newscast stories and interviews with the active participation of UNIVISION (the most watched hispanic broadcast television network reaching 99% of hispanic households in the US), its local channel through the Bay Area Univision14 and Univision.com -7 million visitors-, and Telemundo through Telemundo48 –with the most viewed newscasts in the area with more than 800 thousand viewers- and Telemundo.com -4 million visitors.
- Radio coverage, announcements, special programs and interviews including but not limited to Hispanic Communication Network -through its 270 affiliated radio stations with 13 million listeners- Radio Bilingüe –with its 100 affiliate stations in the continent-, NPR’s KQED -4.1 million listeners- , Radio Zacatecas; broadcasts such as “Hecho en California” –the radio program with the largest audience in the North of California, among others.
- Newspapers, electronic media, social media and online channels that covered BHW events in Mexico and the US included: el Universal, La Jornada, Noticias MVS, La Opinion, El Hispano News, Intravision, El Mundo USA, La Vision Newspaper, La Columna (laredhispana.org), latinofresh.com, elperiodicohispano.com, revistasinfrontera.net, cambiodigital.com.mx, etc.



## Our Sponsors and Volunteers



We would like to thank the efforts and work achieved by the organizing committee; composed of the Mexican Secretariat of Health, the Institute of Mexicans Abroad, the Mexican Embassy in the United States, the General Consul of Mexico in San Francisco, and the Health Initiatives of the Americas, a program of the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. Besides this, we would also like to acknowledge all of our volunteers who worked countless hours towards making this event possible.

This event was possible thanks to the generous contribution of our sponsors:



### Drink Sponsors

*Hafner Vineyard, Madrigal Family Winery, Trione Vineyards, Folio, Encante Vineyards, Tequila Clase Azul, Mi Sueño Winery, San Francisco Brewery, Paolo Batteggazzore, John DeLuca and George Ortiz.*

Key Partners:



“REMEMBER,  
REMEMBER ALWAYS,  
THAT ALL OF US,  
AND YOU AND I ESPECIALLY,  
ARE DESCENDED FROM  
**IMMIGRANTS** AND REVOLUTIONISTS.”  
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

