



**Eighth Annual Binational Health Week**  
*October 6-15, 2008*

Binational Health Week (BHW) has become one of the largest mobilization efforts in the Americas to improve the health and well-being of underserved immigrants and migrants of Latin American origin living in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. It encompasses an annual weeklong series of health promotion and health education activities that include workshops, insurance referrals, and medical screenings. BHW events emerge from networks forged among agencies and organizations working on migrant health issues and, in turn, foster ongoing collaboration. Main partners include the Secretariats of Health and of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Colombia, the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, the Mexican Social Security Institute, California's Department of Public Health, The California Endowment, the California HealthCare Foundation, the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission, and the Health Initiative of the Americas, a program of the University of California in Berkeley, School of Public Health. BHW is intended as a first step in a larger program of cooperation amongst North American and Central American countries to improve the health and well being of immigrant workers and their families.

*Binational Health Week 2008*

This year, BHW will take place *October 6-15, 2008* in 40 states in the U.S. and 3 provinces in Canada, with the participation of the consular networks of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Also, the Mexican states with high rates of migration will be implementing activities. During Binational Health Week, a national campaign will take place to promote awareness among the Latino community on the topics of Obesity and Diabetes, HIV/ AIDS, Autism, and Emergency Preparedness.

*Binational Health Week 2007 Results*

The Seventh Annual BHW took place October 13-21, 2007 and witnessed the largest participation since its inception in 2001. An estimated 301,661 people participated in 3,941 activities and received 1,815 health screenings throughout the United States and Canada. In addition, 6,586 agencies and 15,497 volunteers participated in the organization of the activities, with the leadership of 125 taskforces supported by the consulate networks of 4 countries: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Colombia.

*Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Health*

The Inaugural Event and Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Health will take place in Zacatecas, Mexico on October 6-7, 2008. More than 500 high-level representatives from federal, state, and community organizations from participating countries are expected to partake, including elected officials, universities (faculty, administrators, alumni, and students), union leaders, researchers, federal and state agency directors, media organizations, and other key public and private stakeholders. Participants will convene to discuss immigrants' health challenges and explore collaborative strategies to enhance the health and conditions of this population. Topics to be addressed include global health and migration, chronic and emergent diseases of mobile populations, occupational health and safety, access to health services, workforce development, and the health of vulnerable groups, including those with disabilities and agricultural workers.

*Growth of Binational Health Week in the United States: 2001–2007*

Year	California Counties	U.S. States	Number of Activities	Estimated Number of People Reached	Estimated Number of Participating Agencies
2001	7	1	98	18,720	115
2007	46	33	3,941	301,661	6,586