

XVII Binational Health Week

October 2017

Health unites us all

The XVII edition of the Binational Health Week (BHW), under the motto “Health unites us all,” was held during October 2017 in the USA and Canada. Moreover, due to the endeavor of the Colombian Consulate’s Network and the “Colombia unites us” program, BHW reached Argentina, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile, Mexico, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Panama, France, Brazil, Belgium, and Spain. The objective of this annual effort is to bring information and health services to the Latino origin underserved population.

Every year, since October of 2001, Binational Health Week has been coordinated by the Mexican Health and Foreign Affairs Ministries, the International Affairs Ministries from Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, and Peru, the Health Initiative of the Americas of the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, as well as by the support of thousands of local organizations. Thousands of health-related activities around the continent take place, including free primary care screening tests, vaccination campaigns, educational conferences, workshops, medical and social services referrals, forums, and sports events.



International Inauguration at the Mexican Consulate in Chicago

BHW encourages community solidarity by mobilizing resources and organizing volunteers, all of them working together for a common goal. The consulates from the different countries lead the local activities, supported by community clinics, hospitals, civic organizations, local and state governments, universities, community centers, and private businesses. All these efforts and international collaboration prompt BHW as one of the most significant community mobilizations in North America, with everyone working on behalf of the health of the migrants.

Inauguration and Closure



Closure in San Bernardino, California

In 2017, BHW was inaugurated at the beginning of October in Aurora City, Colorado, bolstered by the Mexican General Consulate in Denver, and culminating with a health fair. Likewise, in the San Francisco Bay Area, there was an inaugural event hosted by the University of California Berkeley and honored by the participation of the Mexican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Peruvian, and Brazilian Consulate representatives. In California, BHW 2017 officially closed on October 29, in San Bernardino City, with a day of activities, including meetings with 40 regional leaders from Southern California, encompassing health organizations' representatives, mayors, U.S., and

Californian Congresspersons. The event concluded with a grand health fair, accompanied by the participation of consuls and representatives of TRICAMEX (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico).

XVII BHW Results

The following results correspond to the data delivered by the Mexican and Colombian consulates, but there were many more consulates from other countries as well as local organizations involved in this effort. In 2017, the **Mexican and Colombian** consular representations reported that there were **1,768 health-related events**, **219,410 people** and **6,664 organizations** participated in them, as well as thousands of volunteers. There were **245,843 health services** delivered across **14 countries in the Latin American continents and Europe**. All the health services were free of charge, and the attendees received several information resources. The objective was to heal as well as to prevent medical conditions among families and communities. Those services included glucose testing, cholesterol, HIV, hearing, and Pap screenings, as well as mental health counseling, blood pressure readings, mammographies, oral health assessments, optometry, influenza vaccines, general check-ups, and many more services.

The activities included health fairs, conferences, instructional workshops, sports competitions, and cultural events. All these health-related activities, as well as the informational resources, were provided in appropriate cultural and linguistic ways. Furthermore, these actions occurred in suitable and safe places for the Latino population. Additionally, the BHW facilitated the cooperation of several and various Latinamerican consulates to uphold diverse activities. All these information and health services were integrated into several Latino cultural events and festivities by blending music, dance, folk customs, and traditional food as ways to celebrate health and honor life.



Cultural Event in Montevideo, Uruguay



Free dental services in San Bernardino, U.S.A

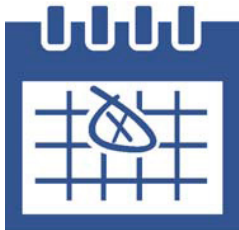


Glucose measurements, San Diego, U.S.A

In a nutshell:



**Present in 14
countries**



**1,768 Health-
related Events**



**6,664 Participating
Organizations**



**219,410
Beneficiaries**



**245,843 Health
Consultations**



**4 Emphasized
areas**

Training and Resources:

Binational Health Week embraced four main topics:

- Chronic diseases, including obesity and diabetes
- Infectious diseases, including HIV and tuberculosis
- Mental Health
- Women's Health

The training materials for the Binational Health Week coordinators and the participating agencies are available on the BHW website www.semanabinacionaldesalud.org; it includes relevant and updated information regarding health topics, as well as informational material in Spanish for the attendees of the different events.



Health promoters at the BHW inauguration in San Francisco Bay Area, U.S.A

All the activities were promoted at local and national levels via mass media, as well as social networks as Facebook and Twitter.

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our Social
Media!*



@binationalhealthweek



www.binationalhealthweek.org

Conclusion

Throughout the last 17 years, BHW has played a fundamental role in the creation of opportunities for collaboration among local, state, and federal programs, as well as with healthcare providers looking to improve the quality of life of the Latino population who lack access to regular health care providers. BHW is a successful model of social mobilization to promote health education, access to health services, and public policies that serve the Latino community. The impact of BHW exceeds the October events and ensures the access to a healthy life for this working population beyond the borders.

Today more than ever before, the collective effort of those that stand up for the health and well-being of every person, regardless of their place of origin or migratory status, is essential. We believe that the health of a country also encompasses the health of its migratory population and the work that needs to be done requires organized, collective, and targeted actions that are similar to Binational Health Week.

Health brings us all together