

# Key Findings from Binational Health Week 2006

## *Social Mobilization to Improve the Health of Mexican & Central American Immigrants*



● INNOVATIVE EVALUATION SYSTEMS FOR THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY ●

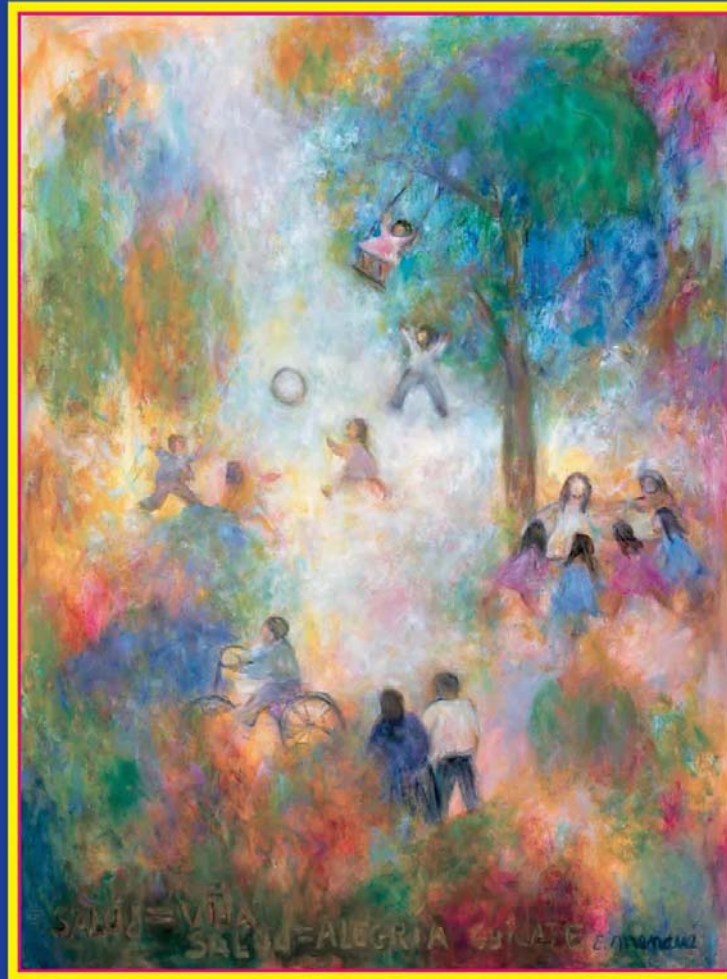
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# Binational Health Week

- One of the largest mobilization efforts in the Americas to improve the health of underserved Latino immigrants
- Annual weeklong series of health promotion and education activities, including direct services & referrals

*La Salud es Alegría*



*VI Semana  
Binacional de Salud  
Octubre 7-15, 2006*



# Binational Health Week

## *The Challenge*

- More immigrants in US from Latin America than any other region
- Foreign born 2.5 times more likely to be uninsured
- 32.7% of Latino population and nearly 50% of Central American immigrants lack health insurance

Source: University of California and The Mexican Secretariat of Health. Mexican and Central American Immigrants in the US: Health Care Access. 2006.

# Binational Health Week

## *The Response*

- Facilitated by Health Initiative of the Americas, University of California Office of the President
- Builds on existing networks & structures: government agencies, community-based organizations, churches, schools, hometown associations, health clinics & professionals, community leaders
- Decentralized & tailored to local context

# Binational Health Week

## *Evaluation*

Quantitative & qualitative tools:

- Online data collection (self-report)
- Focus groups
- Interviews
- Surveys

# Sixth Annual BHW Results

## October 7-15, 2006

- 31 U.S. states, DC, 3 Canadian provinces
- 300,000 participants
- 5,000 agencies & 3,000 volunteers
- 49,349 health screenings
- 1,014 activities (health fairs, workshops, mobile clinics, etc.)







# BHW 2006 Results

“ It is the first time I participate [in BHW] and the second time I have a clinical screening, and I already have 10 years living in the United States.”

--BHW Participant

# BHW 2006 Results

- Topics most addressed: diabetes, access to care, HIV/AIDS/STDs, cardiovascular, women's health, social services, mental health, nutrition, cancer, fitness
- Populations most served: children, adolescents, parents, agricultural workers, elderly, expectant mothers

# BHW 2006 Results

- Collaboration across borders
- Policymakers from US (local, state, federal), Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador

***BHW is inspiring and,  
“encourages and impresses  
me to do more and do better.”***

**-Gilbert Cedillo**

**CA State Senator, 2<sup>nd</sup> District**

# BHW 2006 Results

## *National Survey*

- Random survey used at health fairs
- CA, GA, IL, IN, KY, NC, PA, TN, TX
- N=948
- Information collected: impressions of BHW, health seeking behaviors, health care access

# BHW 2006 Results

## *National Survey*

- 25% First time saw a doctor, nurse or health worker and/or received health information in the US
- 40% Do not have health insurance
- 80% Know where to get medical care in US; Feel safe seeking medical care in US

# BHW 2006 Results

## *National Survey*

- Top reasons for seeking healthcare in US: personal illness, general check-up, illness in family
- Top factors to improve access in US: Spanish speaking provider, ability to pay, cultural understanding, legal status, hours of operation

# BHW 2006 Results

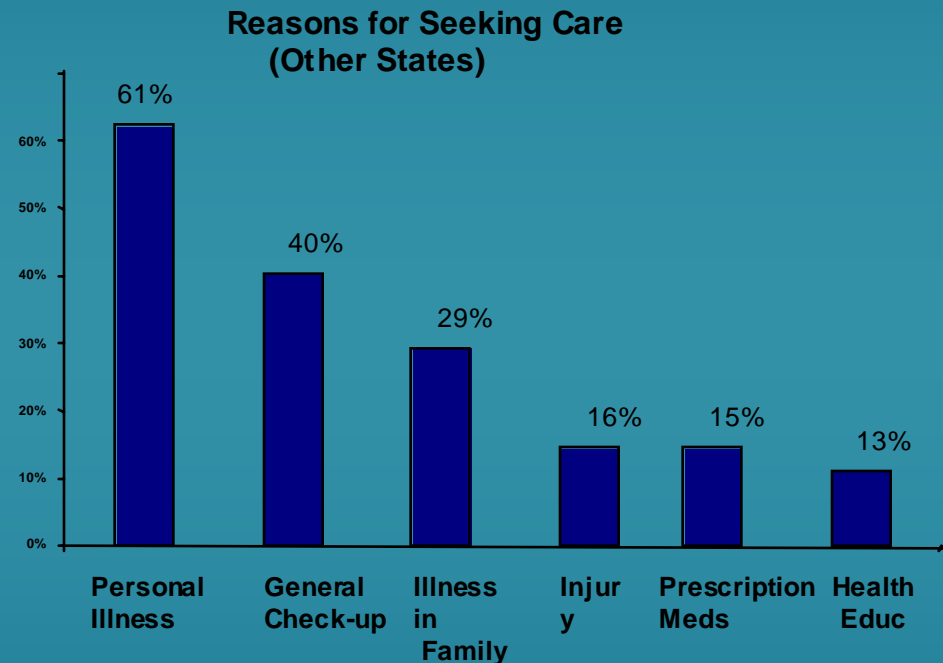
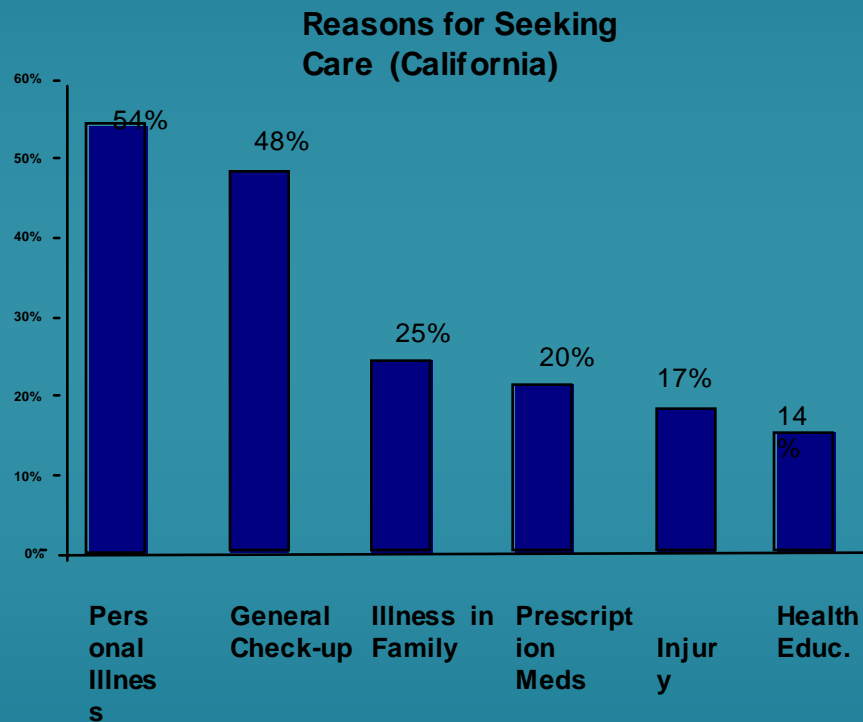
## *National Survey*

- Usual source of care: community health clinics, private doctor, ER/urgent care
- Top health concerns: diabetes, dental, heart disease/cardio, vision, cancer
- 70% rated health as good, very good or excellent; 30% rated health as poor or very poor



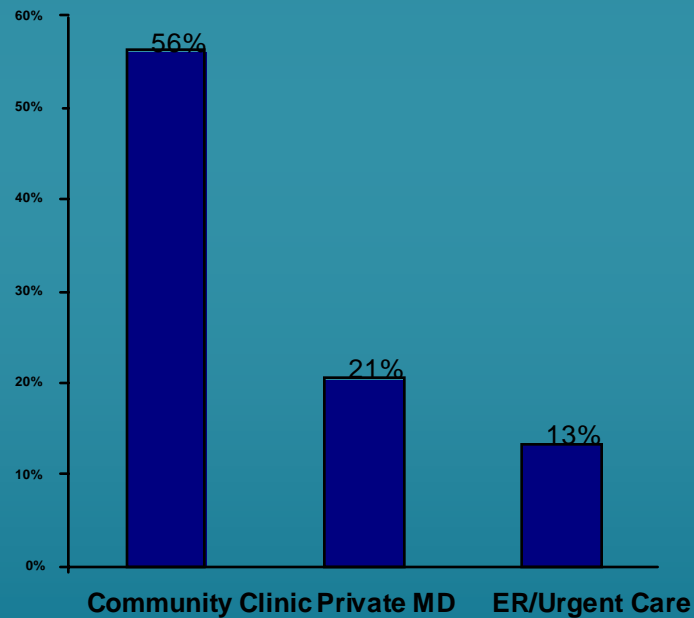


# BHW 2006 Results: *National Survey*

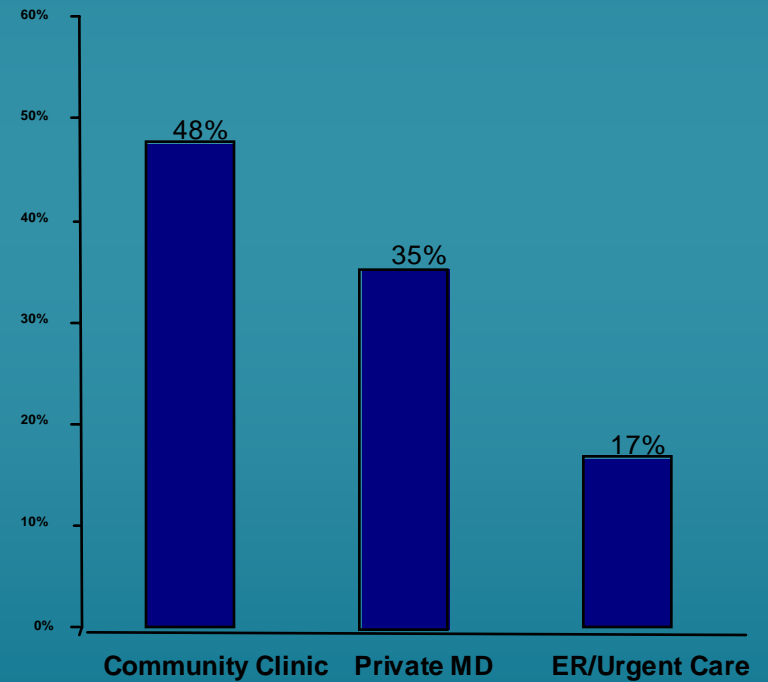


# BHW 2006 Results: *National Survey*

Where care is sought  
(California)



Where care is sought  
(Other States)



# Binational Health Week

## *Conclusion*

- Provided health education and promotion activities
- Offered direct health services
- Increased knowledge of local services
- Raised awareness of immigrant health
- Advanced political advocacy

# **Binational Health Week**

## *Conclusion*

Binational Health Week is a successful and replicable model of social mobilization to increase health care education, access to services, and policy promotion for Latino migrants/immigrants.

# Key Findings from Binational Health Week 2006

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# Key Findings from Binational Health Week 2006

For more information please visit

[www.abundantia.net](http://www.abundantia.net)



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