



“Promoting Occupational Safety and Health among Mexican Immigrant Workers in the United States: A Model for Binational Collaboration”

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FACT SHEET

- Mexico has the largest diaspora in the world (almost 13 million), then India (11.8) and Russia (11.3)


Concentration:


- **95% of mexicans abroad live in the United States**
- **59% are concentrated in 2 states** (California 38% and Texas 21%)
- **Dispersion phenomenon:** Nevada, Mississippi, Nebraska, Arkansas, Idaho, Colorado, Alaska

Dimension: 31.8 million people of mexican origin in the USA (1st and 2nd generation) → **10% of the United States population**

- **12 million born in Mexico**
- **3.2 million permanent legal residents**
- Significant decrease in flow of mexicans to USA (net migration rate =0)


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GENERAL MIGRANTS´ LABOR CONDITIONS

- Adverse climate for migrants in some States: proliferation of antiimmigration initiatives (E-Verify, I-9)
- Migrants´ vulnerability increases if undocumented (aprox. 7 million), being exposed to more risks, uncertainty, victimization and violation of their rights
- Also it reduces their possibilities to have safe, healthy and human labor conditions
- Fear of pressing charges if their rights are violated







How does the Mexican Government work for migrants abroad?

- Operates through the Mexican Consular network: 56 Consular Offices in North America
- 3 main areas of attention:
 - Documentation: (preventive protection)
 - Protection
 - Attention to Communities Abroad → **Institute for Mexicans Abroad**

Abroad


- Started in 1990 as the Program for Mexican Communities Abroad and in 2003 became an Institute (descentralized body of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Advisory Board and migrant as its leader)
- Contributes to increase the well-being of the Mexican Diaspora by coordinating a series of programs in areas such as health, education, financial counseling
 - Aims to integrate and empower the mexican community
 - Foster development in host and origin countries
 - Preventive protection





How do we promote occupational safety and health?

- 1) Ventanillas de Salud Program
- 2) National Labor Rights Week
- 3) Bilateral Cooperation:
 - **Health and Human Services (HRSA)**
 - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
 - **Department of Labor (DOL)**
 - Wage and Hour Division (WHD)
 - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)





How do we promote occupational safety and health?

- 1) **Ventanillas de Salud Program (VDS)**
 - Started in 2002 with two Health Windows, currently operating 50
 - Partnership with Health Ministry and Local Agencies
 - Since 2007 funding from the Health Ministry (aprox. \$2 million dls.) + in kind resources from the Consular network
 - 3 axis:
 - Health Prevention
 - Health Promotion
 - Information on access to health care







VENTANILLAS DE SALUD PROGRAM

LOCAL PARTNERS:

- Key for the programs' success
- More than 600 local health service clinics organizations
- Partnering to function as fiscal agencies
- Increase access to health care
- Bring highly qualified outreach staff and provide cultural sensitive services

VENTANILLAS DE SALUD PROGRAM

➢ **Successful Interinstitutional Collaboration:**

➢ **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)**

- **Strategic Goal:** integration of health and occupational safety infrastructure as a key area for the Consulate to promote through the VDS Program
- **Objectives:**
 - Ameliorate the Consulates and organizations capacity to identify and respond to occupational health necessities of migrant workers
 - Migrants recognize Consulates as secure information centers
 - Evaluate this model and analyze its possible adaptation to use with other institutions (ONG's, clinics, other Consulates)

VENTANILLAS DE SALUD PROGRAM

➢ **NIOSH-VDS strategic collaboration areas:**

- 1) **Increase promotion and diffusion of migrants labor rights by elaborating materials especially for hispanic migrants:**
 - Information on risks, protection mechanism and migrants rights
 - Participation of NIOSH in Binational Health Week, National Week for Migrants' Rights and IME's Informative Conferences on Occupational Safety
 - Capacitation of Community and Protection Consular functionaries
- 2) **Epidemiologic Vigilance**
 - Concrete information on: non-fatal injuries, cronical conditions and occupational deseases
 - Identify particular cases
 - Conduct evaluations in consulates

VENTANILLAS DE SALUD PROGRAM

➢ **NIOSH-VDS strategic collaboration areas:**

3) **Access to resources:**

- Consulate as a bridge (with women and occupational safety organizations)
- Interinstitutional collaboration: NIOSH, OSHA, IME, NGO'S
- Occupational Health networking (share contacts of organizations)
- Local: unions, NGO's, private lawyers, legal aid, academic programs, community clinics, churches, social service departments
- State and Regional: DOL, Workers Compensation, OSHA, COSH

VENTANILLAS DE SALUD PROGRAM

Other Successful Alliances


HRSA: strengthening collaboration between VDS and Community Health Centers

- Look for training opportunities for VDS staff
- 2 Regional collaboration meetings (Dallas and SFO)

American Cancer Society: replicate cancer station model (funding from ACS to VDS to provide education and early screenings)


Centers for Disease and Control Prevention: influenza vaccination campaign (2010-2011) and distribution of pharmacy coupons through VDS for free vaccination

VENTANILLAS DE SALUD PROGRAM




Accomplishments:

- Staffed by highly qualified personnel for a successful operation
- Individualized outreach services
- Effective network of partners
- Periodical meetings with the national partners (Lead Agencies) for the VDS program
- Solid coordination between Lead Agencies/ IME representatives in matters of evaluation, services and funding
- Mobile VDS Programs to increase its outreach (1st mobile VDS in Kansas)
- Since its creation more than 2.5 million people have received health information




HOW DO WE PROMOTE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH?




- The Mexican Government has developed an active policy to defend the rights of migrant workers in the USA.

2) Bilateral cooperation mechanisms: Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Department of Labor (DOL)

- 2004: Joint Declaration and Two Letters of Agreement with agencies of the Department of Labor (DOL):
 - Wage and Hour Division (WHD)
 - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- 2010: Joint Declaration (SRE-DOL) confirming the commitment to work together to inform Mexican migrants their labor rights
- In total 26 agreements with different agencies: US Wage and Hour Division, OSHA, US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission





National Labor Rights Week



3) National Labor Rights Week

- 3 editions of this program (since 2009)
- 2010 only 23 Consulates participated, in 2011 the 50 Consulates
- Commemorate Labor Day promoting migrants rights (regardless of nationality, migration status and gender), safe labor environment and just wages
- Inform the community where they can go if their rights are violated
- Sensibilize society on how migrant workers contribute to the economy and to social and cultural development
- Identify protection issues





NATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS WEEK



- Thematic: "2011 women in the workplace"
- Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs + Department of Labor (DOL) + partnerships with local agencies:
 - Unions
 - state protection labor rights offices
 - community organizations
 - other Latin American Countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Dominican Republic
 - media





More information.....:



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