

## **Week of health events aimed at Latinos kicks off Saturday; FREE HEALTH SCREENING AND MORE FOR BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK**

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### **Body**

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**Binational Health Week kicks off Saturday** with a host of **health events** ranging from a diabetes conference to blood pressure screenings to cancer education programs, all **aimed** at Latino immigrants in Santa Clara County.

It's the fifth year for this massive, cross-border **health** education campaign, sponsored by the U.S. and Mexican governments, state and local agencies and non-profit groups. Last year's **Binational Health Week** was observed in 28 states, the District of Columbia, 28 Mexican states, and three Canadian provinces.

In Santa Clara County, about 9,400 people participated last year. The county is home to an estimated 300,000 documented and undocumented Mexican immigrants, the largest such population north of Los Angeles County, said San Jose-based Mexican Consul General Bruno Figueroa.

"We're talking about a community that doesn't always understand English, about people who do not know the complex **health** system," Figueroa said. "So we focus on how to get **health** messages directly to the community."

There are about 415,000 **Latinos** in Santa Clara County, about a quarter of the population, according to the U.S. Census. They are less likely than other groups to have **health** insurance or receive routine medical and dental care and are **more** likely to suffer from diabetes, research has shown. **Latinos** accounted for about 42 percent of the county's new AIDS cases last year. And in 2004, Latino girls accounted for about 80 percent of the county's teen births.

Many local **events** will take place primarily in Spanish at supermarkets and churches, flea markets, universities and schools. Lectures and **health** screenings will cover diabetes, nutrition and fitness, how to get access to **health** care and low-cost **health** insurance, and services for the disabled.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED For **more** information, visit [www.sccgov.org](http://www.sccgov.org) or [www.binationalhealthweek.org](http://www.binationalhealthweek.org).

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