

Health Needs of Oaxacan Indigenous Communities in the San Joaquin Valley

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Abstract:

Funding was provided to write and publish a manuscript on the health conditions of native communities in the San Joaquin California Valley, as well as a review of the public health interventions developed to address such needs. The health conditions of our native/indigenous communities continues to be precarious and related to a socio-economic detriment that has generated diseases and health conditions traditionally identified in these communities such as malnutrition, intestinal parasitism, iron-deficiency anemia, and infectious diseases. Along with these traditionally found health conditions, a new group of emergent chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity increasingly threaten the well-being of our native communities in the San Joaquin Valley, in the Americas and around the world. The public health response to the needs of the native/indigenous communities in the Americas requires international collaboration and inter-regional work. Such work should be based on a humble attitude in which we are all willing to learn from each other and to develop cross-regional mechanisms such as the creation of international collaboration networks and learning opportunities through teleconferences and other educational means in the areas of indigenous health, health promotion, disease prevention, health education, and primary health care.