

## **The Binational/Crosscultural Health Enhancement Center**

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### **Abstract**

The Binational/Cross-Cultural Health Enhancement Center (BiCCHEC) fosters multidisciplinary research collaborations that address the biological, cultural, historical, legal, behavioral and demographic issues that impact the health status of communities where Latinos are born and where they live in Indiana. Since its inception, BiCCHEC projects have been multidisciplinary, 80% of the projects involve two or more IUPUI schools. BiCCHEC projects are also collaborative, 70% of the projects have one or more community partners.

BiCCHEC researchers have also established a strong commitment to teaching and service, actively involving students in research (25% of current projects are student led) and service-learning activities, developing exchange programs through our partnerships and providing direct health services in community organized events. Signature center funds have been utilized to fund internal pilot projects. The current poster will highlight four of those projects that have received pilot funding from signature center funds and have resulted in external grant applications or have already received funding, or have resulted in peer reviewed-publications. These projects are considered representative of BiCCHEC's activities, because of their collaborative, multidisciplinary and community-based nature and include:

- Study on oral health disparities using community-based participatory research
- Study on the attitudes regarding children with disabilities, beliefs regarding death, coping skills and supports used during bereavement in communities in Indiana and rural Mexico
- Building of a bi-national research partnership for healthful eating and diabetes prevention among Mexican and Mexican-American children
- Study on emigration and return migration in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Mexico: Across the border and back again
- Study on the effects of migrants' acculturation on oral health and diet in Indianapolis and Tala, Jalisco using social network theory