

PRESS RELEASE

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Research project on migrants without medical insurance: Community report-back

Montreal, September 2nd, 2016. Back in June 2016, the research team of the project on *how to improve the health and access to healthcare of uninsured migrants*, coordinated by the Public Health Research Institute of the University of Montreal, published a press release to announce the launch of the project. Today, 3 months later, we would like to share with you the latest on progress made.

- **Actions Taken:**

- Outreach to 5000 people, made aware of the project and the problems faced by this population
- 15 places of worship visited
- 25 information dissemination kiosks in different community events, festivals, street fairs
- >8000 people reached through our Facebook Pages (English/French& Spanish)

As a result, 200 people without health insurance have so far participated in the study (out of a target sample population of 900). The people reached were referred to appropriate community resources, including Doctors of the World (Médecins du Monde) - the only clinic in Montreal offering free and confidential care to migrants without health insurance

- **What have we learned so far:**

Information gathered so far shows that a little more than half of participants consider themselves to be in good health and report no previous health diagnoses. It is worth noting, however, that they perceive themselves as less healthy than their Canadian-born and immigrants counterparts. More than half of this population felt they needed care by a health professional, but did not have access. The majority

of the population are migrant families under 50 years of age and with a temporary immigration status, but they were not aware of where they can consult a medical professional free of charge or at low cost. When people did report a health problem that reduced their capacity to conduct daily activities, this was mainly due to one or more chronic illnesses.

- **Community support and stakeholders**

The advocacy and support of community organizations and stakeholders is integral to helping us enhance the well-being of overlooked migrant populations. Therefore, on August 31, a reception was held at University of Montréal to express our appreciation to all those who have participated in the project. At this event, we benefited from the presence of diplomats, representatives of religious communities, community organizations, universities, and public health authorities, a list of which is included below.

At the event, participants were informed of recruitment efforts made so far and were invited to reflect upon the need for action. It was emphasized that this research focuses on access to healthcare by a population that has previously gone unnoticed. The collaboration and advocacy of stakeholders was also requested, considering that this public health issue cannot be resolved without the active participation and involvement of national and international key players with strong links within the community.

- **How to get involved**

It is important to stress that while we have made great progress in reaching uninsured immigrants, the support of individuals is of utmost importance to the study and their respective communities. If you know of someone who is without health insurance, please encourage them to contact us (by calling 514-349-3098), and help us assist them in overcoming this issue, both in the short and long term. To find out more about who we are, what we do and to receive more information on the topic, visit our [Facebook](#) page [@Santédesmigrants](#) (French and English) and [@Saluddelosmigrantes](#) (Spanish).

We take this opportunity to thank the consulates and organizations that honored us with their presence:

Consulat Général de la République de El Salvador
Consulat Général de la République française
Consulat Général de la République de Guatémala
Consulat Général de la République d'Haïti
Consulat Général de la République du Honduras
Consulat Général de la République du Pérou
Consulat de la Jamaïque
Consulat Général du Pakistan
ACCESSS

Afghane women centre of Montreal
Association des femmes iraniennes de Montréal
Centre communautaire Laurentien
Centre des travailleurs immigrants (CTI)
Centre Kabir
Chez Stella
Clinique des solutions justes
Comité d'action des personnes sans statut
Comité des résidents espagnols
Direction régionale de santé publique
École de santé publique de l'Université de Montréal (ESPUM)
Gurdwara Guro Nanak Dakar
Institut de recherche en santé publique de l'Université de Montréal (IRSPUM)
Journal Atlas Media
La Maisonnée
Médecins du Monde
Mission Notre-dame-D'Afrique
MultiCaf
Old Brewery Mission
PINAY
Radio CKVL
Service à la famille chinoise du Grand-Montréal
TCRI
Unité de santé internationale
Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)
Université McGill

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For more information/ previous press releases /interviews and/or questions, please contact Ms. Magalie Benoit, Research Coordinator at 514-643-6111 (Ext.0601) or Email: magalie.benoit.1@umontreal.ca

For any picture or description of our activities, please see our [Facebook](#) page [@santédesmigrants](#) (French and English)

Source: SANTÉ DES MIGRANTS Communications Committee