

CLÍNICA DE MIGRANTES

Screening Guide

PREMIERES

September 25th, 2017 at 10p/9c on HBO

Also available on HBO Latino® | HBO NOW™ | HBO GO® | HBO ON-DEMAND®

For more information, go to

www.hbo.com/documentaries/clinica-de-migrantes/

WHAT'S THE FILM ABOUT?

Today, undocumented immigrants face countless daily challenges, including obtaining access to affordable health care. At Puentes de Salud health clinic in South Philadelphia, volunteers address this problem by serving uninsured Latino immigrants who have nowhere else to turn and are increasingly reluctant to seek care in the current political climate. The timely documentary **CLÍNICA DE MIGRANTES** spotlights the bonds between the doctors and their patients, and goes beyond the politicized rhetoric to show the faces of real people in the middle of the immigration debate.

HOW DO YOU HOST A SCREENING?

Invite your guests to watch the film together. Here are some tips for hosting a great screening.

1. Gather your friends and colleagues. Use a site like Evite to send out invitations and collect RSVPs. Here's a sample of what your invitation can say.

<HOST NAME> cordially invites you and a guest to a screening and discussion of

CLÍNICA DE MIGRANTES

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<TIME> WELCOME

<TIME> SCREENING (length 40 minutes)

Please RSVP to <EMAIL address> by <DATE>.

Create a Facebook event as well. Then, promote your screening to potential guests. Tag your tweets with [#ClinicadeMigrantes](#) and [@HBODocs](#) and share both the poster (see the end of the guide) and link to the film's website. Send the link to the trailer as well - youtu.be/C7dW9c4nY1g

2. Introduce the film. Ask everyone, “**do undocumented immigrants living in the United States have access to healthcare?**” Give everyone a chance to write or at least consider his/her responses before the film.

3. Watch the film.

4. Talk about what you saw in the film. Go over responses, and talk about what surprised people the most. What have they learned? Have their perceptions changed? See below for sample discussion questions.

5. Think about what you or your group can do to get involved. Invite guests to learn more about healthcare options for the undocumented immigrant population. Urge people to tell their personal networks about the film and the issues it raises, and share the URL to the website for those who are interested in finding out more – www.hbo.com/documentaries/clinica-de-migrantes/

6. Thank your guests. Send a thank you email the next day, and include follow up comments on the discussion. You can include links to the groups below.

HOW DO YOU GET THE DISCUSSION GOING?

After the credits roll, turn up the lights and give your group time for silent reflection. Some viewers may want to leave. Some may want to share their story. Some may want to just listen. Once you're ready to begin, encourage everyone to listen respectfully to each other as the conversation gets under way.

Here is some information and discussion prompts to start you off.

BACKGROUND

Undocumented immigrants can't buy health insurance and receive no regular medical care.

The Affordable Care Act

"Undocumented immigrants aren't eligible to buy Marketplace health coverage, or for premium tax credits and other savings on Marketplace plans. But they may apply for coverage on behalf of documented individuals."

Source

"Immigrants | Health coverage for Immigrants" Healthcare.gov
<https://www.healthcare.gov/immigrants/coverage/>

Medicaid - Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA)

Emergency Medical Assistance is available to any immigrant regardless of immigration status, if they have an emergency medical condition that without immediate attention could result in any of the following:

- Placing the individual's health or the health of an unborn child in serious jeopardy
- Serious impairment to bodily functions
- Serious dysfunction of bodily organs

The definition of emergency care for such conditions and scope of services available through Medicaid programs varies by state.

Sources

"Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) - Main Points" American College Of Emergency Physicians <https://www.acep.org/news-media-top-banner/emtala/>

Galewitz, Phil. "Medicaid Helps Hospitals Pay For Illegal Immigrants' Care." Kaiser Health News, Kaiser Health News, 12 Feb. 2013, <http://khn.org/news/medicaid-illegal-immigrant-emergency-care/>

QUESTIONS

"Why are they here?" observes Dr. Jack Ludmir in the film "I'm not here to discuss the politics of this thing. This is purely healthcare providers and the moral and ethical obligation." What are the moral and ethical obligations of healthcare providers to treat the undocumented immigrant population in the United States?

What types of conditions and ailments are patients at Puentes de Salud coping with? Have you ever dealt with a similar condition? Did you have insurance? If you didn't, what would you have done? How does Medicaid in your state classify an emergency medical condition? What does this cover? What doesn't this cover? Why do you think Mery Martinez returned to Honduras after she was

discharged from a hospital, unable to pay for additional chemotherapy treatments?

Why do you think Dr. Larson says at one point going to the emergency room is “the least cost effective way of managing a person’s care”? Can you think of an example from the film? (Answer: “Dacey: Yeah, so she had a very bad headache that wouldn’t go away so she went to the emergency room and the bill is for \$3,856. Jack: And what did they give her, a Tylenol, right? Dacey: They gave her two aspirin, acetaminophen, caffeine pills, one urine collection kit, one PET-U visit, and one observation.”)

Why does Dr. Larson reach out to local restaurant owners? What are their responses? What are some of the other industries that Dr. Larson identifies as driving the demand for cheap labor?

Speaking about his concerns that a patient may be not disclosing an incident of domestic violence, Dr. Ludmir says “It is an issue in particular because these people are concerned about reporting anything,” Another doctor continues- “Because they know something can happen. And if someone comes in they might get deported.” What could be the result of the reluctance to disclose such information?

“Across the country, from Venice, Calif., to Brooklyn, clinics that serve an immigrant population report a downturn in appointments since the administrations crackdown” according to one report in the Summer of 2017 (Hoffman, Jan. “Sick and Afraid, Some Immigrants Forgo Medical Care.” The New York Times, 26 June 2017, [nyti.ms/2tcKY07](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/26/us/immigrants-healthcare.html)). Why do you think that is?

In the film, Dr. Larson observes- “Immigrants aren’t a popular subject politically. It’s a population that doesn’t come up under the Affordable Care Act. There’s just no private insurance for these guys. 90 percent of the immigrant community that we work with is undocumented. Almost 100 percent are below the poverty level. In many communities they’re invisible. We take care of the Dream Act kids. Kids who came across when they were maybe 1 or 2 years old and they’re now 13, 14, need healthcare. We’re here for them. What you have to do is come up with a comprehensive program that acknowledges their presence and then finds ways of funding the cost...You’re talking immigration reform and that’s... mired down in the politics, on both sides, you know, and it’s not ready to be brought up.” On September 5th, 2017, President Trump ordered the end of the Dream Act Program with a 6-month delay so as to give congress time to address immigration reform. Would you propose any measures related to healthcare access and undocumented population? Why? Why Not? If yes, what would they be?

RESOURCES

Federally Qualified Health Centers
findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov

National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics
www.nafcclinics.org/find-clinic

Migrant Clinicians Network
www.migrantclinician.org

Puentes de Salud
www.puentesdesalud.org

FACT SHEETS

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS Is It Safe To Apply For Health Insurance Or Seek Health Care? (National Immigration Law Center, November 2016)
www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/health-KYR-2016-11-30.pdf

HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT Know Your Rights, Know Your Patients' Rights (National Immigration Law Center, April 2017)
www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Protecting-Access-to-Health-Care-2017-04-17.pdf