

**CENTRO BINACIONAL PARA EL
BINATIONAL CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT**



**DESARROLLO INDÍGENA OAXAQUEÑO
OF OAXACAN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

- Established by FIOB in 1993 as a 501(c)(3)
- Governed by a 8 member Board of Directors
- Mission:
Implement programs that drive the civic participation, economic , social and cultural development of the indigenous communities.

OFFICES

HEADQUARTER
744 N. Abby Street
Fresno, CA 93701
Tel: (559) 499-1178
Fax: (559) 268-0484
cbdioinc@sbcglobal.net

Los Angeles
2936 W. 8th Street #303
Los Angeles Ca 90006
Tel: 213-251-8481
cbdio.la@sbcglobal.net

Santa Maria
509 W. Morrison
Santa Maria, CA
Tel: (805) 878-1452
nuunsavi@sbcglobal.net

Greenfield
239-B El Camino Real
Greenfield, CA 93927
Tel: (831) 674-5213

Hollister
881 Line Street
Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 537-4834
(831) 537-4824

www.centrobinacional.org

STATE OF OAXACA



INDIGENOUS HISTORY



- The 16 ethnic communities of Oaxaca are part of the Mesoamerican Pre-Hispanic Cultures.
- Social & Political Organization:
 - City States governed by royal lineages
 - Hierarchical social structure
 - Advance forms of art, literature, math, cosmology
 - Close relationship with nature
 - Practice of traditional medicine
- Indigenous People face stigma & discrimination even in Mexico.
- Ej: Mestizos called them “*Oaxaquitas*”

ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION



INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES IN OAXACA

- o Spanish
- o Zapoteco
- o Mixteco
- o Triqui
- o Chatino
- o Serrano
- o Mixe
- o Netzichu
- o Chontal
- o Mazateco
- o Chinanteco
- o Cuicateco
- o Mexicano
- o Amusgos
- o Huave
- o Techuantepecano
- o Zoque

INDIGENOUS CULTURE

- WRITTEN LANGUAGE
 - Mixtec Codex kept 1,000 years of history
 - Only nine Codex remained
- Oral tradition is predominant in the indigenous communities



MILLENARY CULTURAL TRADITIONS



- El Tequio
 - Word from Nahuatl origin which means “collective work”.
 - All males 18 and older must provide this volunteer work to benefit the community.
- Offering ceremonies to the rain God to ask for good harvest.

LA GUELAGUETZA

- Zapotec word that means “offering” or “sharing”
- It is a cultural celebration where people from the 8 regions come together to share their dances, music, customs and food.



FIESTA PATRONAL



- Catholicism is the main religion since the European conquest.
- Every village has a main “Saint” called “Santo Patron” and multiple *Mayordomías* for other saints.



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS



- **Festivity to commemorate our loved ones who passed away.**
- **Oaxacan families build altars with food, flowers and special tortillas called *totopos*.**
- **We visit the cemetery and pray.**

TRADITIONAL MEDICINE



➤ Etiology of Indigenous Medicine:

Sickness can result from:

- Strong emotions (fear, anger, jealousy)
- External agents
- Evil spirits

➤ Examples of ethnospecific illnesses: Susto, empacho, mal de ojo, caida de mollera.

➤ Traditional Healers were legally recognized in 2000.

TRADITIONAL MARRIAGES

- In the past, traditional marriages were predominant and were **arranged by the parents** of the couples.
- **Key elements:**
 - Dating is not permitted.
 - Marriage is arranged by the parents and an ambassador.
 - The grooms family must give a dowry.

Childbearing

- Affection is reportedly rarely shown through words, but indigenous parents show their affection through **physical touch**, and by **comforting** their children.
- One of the many beliefs about children is that it is **not good to let them cry**. If they cry, *mal aire* or evil air/energy can go into them.
- Physical punishments, such as yelling, spanking and other practices that vary by ethnic communities, are used when children are older.



SOCIAL VALUES

- Trust is a very important value.
- Sense of community and solidarity is very strong.
- Indigenous people do not express their ideas straight to the point, they need to contextualize their problems/experiences.
- Indigenous people avoid making eye contact.

POPULATION



Total Population:

- 3,506,821 inhabitants

Gender:

- 47.7% males
- 52.3% females

Age:

- Ages 0-5 -- 12.3%
- Ages 15-59– 54%

(Censo de Población y Vivienda, 2005)

INDIGENOUS POPULATION

- 1,091,502 Speak indigenous languages
 - 14% monolingual
 - 6 out 10 monolingual are women
 - Zapoteco and Mixteco are the most common languages



(Censo de Población y Vivienda, 2005)

SOCIO-ECONOMICS

- 80.3% of total of the 570 municipalities are highly marginalized.
- Housing conditions:
 - 32.5% have dirt floor
 - 40% lack drainage
 - 30% lack running water



(Censo de Población y Vivienda, 2005)

EDUCATION

EDUCATION LEVEL

Overall Population: 6.3 years

Indigenous Men: **4.4 years**

Indigenous Women: 3.3 years

ILLITERACY LEVEL

19.3 % of general population >15 yrs.

24.4% of indigenous men > 15 yrs.

40.6% of indigenous women > 15 yrs

HEALTH

According to the Oaxacan Health Ministry:

- Average life expectancy is 72.5 years.
- Predominance of infectious diseases related to poverty, malnutrition and basic sanitary conditions. E.g.:
 - Acute respiratory diseases
 - Intestinal infections
 - Lung TB
- Progressive increase of chronic and communicable diseases:
 - Diabetes
 - Hypertension
 - HIV



MIGRATION TO U.S.



MEXICO:(Always)

- Veracruz
- Distrito Federal
- Sinaloa
- Baja California Norte/Sur

United States:('80s)

- California
- Washington State
- Oregon
- Florida
- New York
- North Carolina

MIGRATION TO U.S.

- **1960s-1970s:** First indigenous families arrived with the *Bracero Program*
- **1980s:** Begins Massive Migration
 - Early '80's: Only Men
 - After IRCA (1986): Increased in the number of whole families
- **1990:** U.S. Census registers one Mixtec family
- In **1991**, the California Institute for Rural Studies conducted a research and found that 50,000 indigenous migrants worked in the fields of California.
- The “**Indigenous Farmworker Study**” conducted between **2008-2009** estimates that number of indigenous persons working in the agriculture sector in California is **120,000** and it reaches **165,000** when children are included. (www.indigenousfarmworkers.org)

CONDITIONS OF INDIGENOUS MIGRANTS IN U.S.

- They perform the most physical demanded and less rewarded jobs (farm work and construction)
 - They are exposed to pesticides, long working hours, no toilets with water to wash hands and drinking water.
- They earn the minimum wage (\$8.00 per hour.) and too often below the minimum wage (In the pruning season they earn \$37 per day, instead of \$64 if they were working per hour).
- Zabin and others (1993) found that Mixtec workers were more likely to accept jobs paying less than the minimum wage and were more likely to be victims of non-payment and other law violations.



LIVING CONDITIONS



LIVING CONDITIONS



- It is common to find two bedroom apartments with two or three families (15 people)
- Many live in caves, around the rivers, mountains and under the orchard trees.

LIVING CONDITIONS



LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS



BARRIERS IN THE U.S.

- Language.
- Lack of information regarding the political, social, health systems and the clash of these systems and our traditional believes and practices.
- Immigration Status
- Violation of basic labor rights