



Venezuela

Caracas

Dates

January 4, 2008 to January 20, 2008

Credits

3 credits

HLTH 6075, Venezuela's Public Health Revolution

Cost

\$3,100

Application deadline

October 12, 2007

Contact the faculty

Barry Karlin; vbkarlin@aol.com; phone: (303) 443-8121.

Syllabi, applications, and additional information

Visit the UCDHSC study abroad website at studyabroad.cudenver.edu

Health Care in Venezuela

In Venezuela infant mortality stands at 19 deaths per 1,000 births. Child malnutrition in children under age five stands at 17%; Delta Amacuro and Amazonas have the nation's highest rates. According to the United Nations, 32% of Venezuelans lack adequate sanitation, with rural areas being the most undersupplied. Diseases ranging from typhoid, yellow fever, cholera, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis D are present in the country. Only 3% of sewage is treated; most major cities lack treatment facilities. Almost 20% of Venezuelans lack access to potable water, one of the highest rates in South America. As of 1999, around 110,000 Venezuelans had HIV.



International Education, Study Abroad

Explore the World through Education

TRAVEL STUDY

College of Business

Venezuela

Caracas

Venezuela's Public Health Revolution

January 4, 2008 to

January 20, 2008



Office of International Education, Study Abroad
University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center
Mailing address: Campus box 185, P.O. Box 173364
Denver, CO, USA 80217-3364
p 303 315 2232 f 303 315 2246
study.abroad@cudenver.edu
Visit us at 1380 Lawrence St., 9th floor, Denver, CO

Studyabroad.cudenver.edu

University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center



WINTER 2008: VENEZUELA



Course Content & Objectives

The Government of Venezuela has decided to give public health a very high priority, placing major emphasis on the training of large numbers of new doctors under a program entitled, "Barrio Adentro". This program is designed to bring medical services to every community, many for the first time. Venezuela's new Constitution approved by popular referendum and enacted in 2000 guarantees all citizens the right to health. To achieve this, it seeks to consolidate an effective primary health care network under a single ministry. A key element of this effort will be to employ services of Cuban physicians who will be specially trained to serve as medical educators. They will be supported in creating hundreds of "mini-medical schools" in rural areas where they are assigned and to train some 40,000 Venezuelan medical students by 2015.

Such a plan constitutes a genuine public health revolution. CU students who become part of this study tour will be provided with opportunities to review emerging public health policies, to compare them to health conditions resulting from prior policies, and to study the strengths and potential weaknesses of these important developments for Venezuela's 27 million people and health workers who serve them.

Public health constitutes a broad array of efforts, including the administration of hospital and clinical services, disease prevention activities, control of specific communicable and chronic diseases, manpower training, supervision and evaluation, and provision of basic resources such as potable water and sanitation. It also involves coordination with educators, social workers, agricultural specialists, community organizers and others. Students will be provided with an overview of public health conditions and developments in Venezuela as well as opportunities to pursue their own special interests.

Course Description



Four working days will be spent in the Capital, Caracas, planning for data collection, and meeting officials in the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, PAHO, and selected NGOs. An additional two working days will be spent in Caracas after returning from the field to prepare a final report. The remaining time in the field will provide opportunities to study rural and semi-urban health policies and services west of Caracas in Barquisimeto and Valera. Students will study existing conditions, programs strengths and weaknesses, and emerging plans.

Program Structure & Dates

Arrive in Caracas on Friday, 1/4/08

Student orientation on Friday, 1/4/08

Travel by bus to Barquisimeto on Tuesday, 1/8

Return to Caracas by bus on Thursday, 1/17

Work two additional days in Caracas and return to the USA on Sunday, 1/20

Special Requirements

Upper division or graduate in good academic standing. Basic Spanish is desired but not required. Student must understand that special medical needs are more difficult to obtain in rural areas.

Grading Structure

20% Course Participation

20% Team Contributions

60% Final Report