Migrant Farmworker Health Policy

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Objectives

• Understand the changing demographics of Farm Workers
• Social determinants of health/Barriers to Access to Care
• Common Medical conditions among Farm Workers
• Efforts to improve health outcomes
• The American food system **relies heavily on the work of people born outside U.S. borders**, many of whom are undocumented—and living on edge. In fact, **73 percent** of the 2.5 million farmworkers planting, cultivating, and harvesting our crops each season are foreign-born, mostly in Mexico. And between **30 percent** and **70 percent** are undocumented, according to various sources.

• National Agricultural Workers Survey: started in Federal Fiscal Year 1989 and has occurred every few years with the last survey in 2013-14
NAWS Migrant Streams

Legend

- Green: Eastern
- Yellow: Midwest
- Red: Western

*Source: U.S. Department of Labor, National Agricultural Workers Survey*
CA Shares of US FVH Production

**Fruits**
- Lemons: 91%
- Strawberries: 91%
- Grapes: 88%
- Apricots: 86%
- Avocados: 86%
- Peaches: 73%
- Raspberries: 56%

**Vegetables**
- Artichokes: 100%
- Broccoli: 96%
- Leaf Lettuce: 85%
- Carrots: 83%
- Spinach: 70%
- Bell Peppers: 60%
- Asparagus: 46%
Hispanic

- National: 80%
- Eastern: 71%
- Midwest: 56%
- Western: 95%
Demographics

**Gender Distribution**

- **National**
  - Male: 72%
  - Female: 28%

- **East**
  - Male: 68%
  - Female: 32%

- **Midwest**
  - Male: 78%
  - Female: 22%

- **West**
  - Male: 71%
  - Female: 29%

**Age Distribution of Farmworkers, 2013-2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percent of Farmworkers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14-17</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-21</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-24</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-50</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-54</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changes Over Time

**Farmworker Gender**
(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)

**Trend In Crop Workers’ Average Age**
(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)

**National**

- Year 2000: 22%
- Year 2002: 21%
- Year 2004: 20%
- Year 2006: 20%
- Year 2008: 20%
- Year 2010: 20%
- Year 2012: 20%
- Year 2014: 20%

- Year 2000: 79%
- Year 2002: 78%
- Year 2004: 77%
- Year 2006: 76%
- Year 2008: 75%
- Year 2010: 74%
- Year 2012: 73%
- Year 2014: 72%

- Year 2000: 31
- Year 2002: 32
- Year 2004: 33
- Year 2006: 34
- Year 2008: 35
- Year 2010: 36
- Year 2012: 37
- Year 2014: 38
Tenure in Farm Work
(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)

- The average number of years doing farm work in the US increased between 2000 and 2014.
- Tenure increased for all workers:
  - From 7 to 15 years for FLC workers
  - From 10 to 16 years for directly-hired workers
Family Composition
(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)

- California workers’ family composition has changed with single workers declining from 41 percent to 22 percent between 2000 and 2014.
- The number of crop workers that are parents increased from 49 percent to 63 percent between 2000 and 2014.
Family Togetherness and Separation
(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)

In 2014:
• About two thirds of California crop workers lived with nuclear family members.
• About one in ten had a spouse or children but lived away from them.
• The remainder were single workers.

Between 2000 and 2014, the percent of California workers living with nuclear family members increased:
• from 32 percent to 62 percent for FLC workers and
• from 42 percent to 71 percent for grower-hired workers
California Health Insurance Coverage Trends
(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)

- 2000: 22%
- 2002: 23%
- 2004: 54%
- 2006: 85%
- 2008: 85%
- 2010: 85%
- 2012: 87%
- 2014: 87%

Farmworker: 36%
Spouse: 50%
Children: 87%
Migrant Farm Workers

California Crop Workers Migrant Trend
(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)

- 2000: 51%
- 2002: 42%
- 2004: 33%
- 2006: 41%
- 2008: 33%
- 2010: 24%
- 2012: 11%
- 2014: 14%
Trends in Migrant Types

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)
Many Factors Affect Migration

International Migrants Crossing the US-Mexico Border to Work in California

Map Source: [http://travel.state.gov/content/dam/tsa-global/country-maps/mx-map.gif](http://travel.state.gov/content/dam/tsa-global/country-maps/mx-map.gif)

Data Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey
Supply Shocks

- More difficult to cross U.S.-Mexico border because of new U.S. laws and more border enforcement
- More expensive to hire smugglers to cross U.S.-Mexico border
- Reduced incentive for Mexican citizens to migrate to U.S. because of:
  - Increasing economic growth in Mexico
  - Rising productivity
  - Decreased birth rates
- Change of legal status of agricultural workers (IRCA 1986)

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U.S. Crop Workers’ Current Legal Status
(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)

2000:
- U.S. Citizen: 19%
- Legal Permanent Resident: 25%
- Unauthorized: 55%
- Other Work Authorized: 1%

2014:
- U.S. Citizen: 32%
- Legal Permanent Resident: 21%
- Unauthorized: 46%
- Other Work Authorized: 1%
The number of Mexican immigrants coming to the U.S. has fallen below the number heading back to their home country.

**Migration between the U.S. and Mexico**

- 1995-2000: 0 million
- '05-'10: 1 million
- '09-'14: 0.5 million

**Estimated Mexican illegal immigrants in the U.S.**

- 1995: 0 million
- 2000: 6 million
- 2010: 2 million
- 2014: 5.6 million
Years Since First Arrival to the U.S., 2013-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years in U.S.</th>
<th>Percent of Foreign-Born Farmworkers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than one year</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-4 years</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9 years</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14 years</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19 years</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29 years</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39 years</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40+ years</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmworker Characteristic</td>
<td>Average Number of Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-17 years old</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-21 years old</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-24 years old</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
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<td>25-34 years old</td>
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<td>51-54 years old</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64 years old</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 or more years old</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Factors Affecting Access to Care

- Insurance Coverage
- Authorized Worker
- Lives with Family
- Migrant Status
- Single
Insurance Coverage

NAWS 2013-2014

Has Health Insurance

- National 35%
- Eastern 26%
- Midwest 45%
- Western 35%
NAWS 2009-2014

Has Insurance

- Lives with family, authorized: 63%
- Single, authorized: 53%
- All agricultural workers: 33%
- Lives with family in empl. housing: 29%
- Lives with family, unauthorized: 23%
- Unaccompanied, unauthorized: 11%
- Unaccompanied in empl. housing: 10%
### Health Care Visit in Previous Two Years by Insurance Status, 2014

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insurance Status</th>
<th>Had a US Health Care Visit in Previous Two Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All California Crop Workers</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uninsured California Crop Workers</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insured California Crop Workers</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NAWS 2013-2014

Visited a Provider in Last Two Years

- Single, authorized: 80%
- Lives with family, authorized: 80%
- Lives with family in emp. housing: 66%
- Lives with family, unauthorized: 62%
- All agricultural workers: 61%
- Unaccompanied, unauthorized: 35%
- Unaccompanied in emp. housing: 28%
• In 2013-2014, 31 percent of farmworkers lived in crowded dwellings.

• Unauthorized workers were twice as likely as authorized workers to live in crowded dwellings (41% and 21% respectively).
• In 2013-2014, 31 percent of farmworkers lived in crowded dwellings.

• Migrant workers lived in crowded dwellings with greater frequency than settled workers (40% compared to 29%),
Family Lives Below Poverty Level

- National: 30%
- Eastern: 36%
- Midwest: 24%
- Western: 30%
Primary Language not English

- National: 76%
- Eastern: 70%
- Midwest: 49%
- Western: 90%
Farmworkers' Self-Reported English Speaking and Reading Ability, 2013-2014

Ability to Speak English
- Not at all: 27%
- A little: 32%
- Somewhat: 11%
- Well: 31%

Ability to Read English
- Not at all: 38%
- A little: 23%
- Somewhat: 9%
- Well: 30%
Common Medical Issues in Farm Workers

• Heat related illness
• Chronic conditions
• Muscle-Skeletal
Heat Related Illness/Death

• 2005 Cal/OSHA Heat Illness Prevention regulation
• Acclimatization periods, where employers are required to closely observe new employees during their first two weeks working in a high heat area
• Shade for all workers on a rest or meal break at 80 degrees, lowered from 85, with at least enough shade to accommodate all workers who remain onsite during meal periods
• Water that is “fresh, pure, suitably cool, and provided to employees free of charge”
• Provide water and shade “as close as practicable” to the workers, and encourage people to take preventative cool-down rest breaks in the shade and to drink water.
Chronic Medical Conditions

Share of Crop Workers with ‘Chronic’ Conditions* 2000 and 2014

*Includes asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and “other” diseases

- Asthma: 2% (2000), 3% (2014)
- Diabetes: 1% (2000), 6% (2014)
- High Blood Pressure: 3% (2000), 8% (2014)
- Heart Disease: 1% (2000), <1% (2014)
- Other: 3% (2000), 6% (2014)

Trend In Share of Farmworkers With Select ‘Chronic’ Conditions*

*Includes asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and “other” diseases
(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)

- 2000: 10%
- 2014: 19%
Relative Risk, Farmworker to Latino Non-Agricultural CA 1989-91

- AIDS: 0.11
- Homicide: 0.62
- Suicide: 0.63
- Cancer: 0.93
- Cirrhosis: 1.05
- Heart: 1.06
- Cerebrovas: 1.17
- COPD: 1.21
- Pneumonia: 1.35
- Unintention: 1.47
- Diabetes: 1.88
- Motor V: 2.03

Greater risk of death
Mental Health

• "The saddest thing about being a field worker is when you can't work anymore, you're not useful to anybody," Valadez said. "You want to work, but they look you up and down and say, 'there's no work today, come back tomorrow, come back another day.'"
Muscle-skeletal Conditions

Prevalence of chronic pain by age among hired farm workers in the MICASA Study
Women Suffer More Joint Pain

Prevalence of chronic pain by gender among hired farm workers in the MICASA Study
Muscle-skeletal Problems

- Back pain has been reported to range from 26.2% to 41%
- Osteoarthritis of hip
  - More common with jobs requiring frequent bending
- Osteoarthritis of knee
  - More common with jobs requiring frequent kneeling
Tips for preventing injuries for aging workforce

- Focus on workplace safety with an attempt to eliminate slips and falls
- Implement ergonomic principles to reduce the risk of exertion type injuries
- Reduce the physical demands on aging workers, i.e. in regards to lifting, pulling or twisting
- Avoid above-the-shoulder work
- Eliminate squatting, stooping and kneeling
Special Population: Children

- estimate of 880,000 U.S.-based children of cropworkers, about 140,000 children of farmworkers are living with a parent who is in this country without work-authorized status
- 44 percent were born abroad and are still abroad, 14 percent were born abroad but have moved to the United States, 41 percent were born and live in the United States
• Children over the age of 12 can legally work in agriculture with their parent’s permission
• For farm workers in dangerous jobs the minimum age is 16
• Up to 43% drop out rate from high school.

• Increase in susceptibility to a variety of musculoskeletal injuries, such as bursitis, tendonitis, sprains, and carpal tunnel syndrome
• “disproportionately exposed to pesticides compared with adults due to their greater intake of food, water, and air per unit of body weight.”
Out-of-School Youths as a Percentage of All Crop Workers

17% in 2000, decreasing to 3% in 2014.
• in 2002, over 70% of all injuries related to tractors and vehicles in the fields occurred while children were operating the machines
Ways to Improve Health Outcomes

• Labor Industry/Employer
• Increase Insurance Coverage/Reduce Cost of Care
• Reduce Stigma/Increase Knowledge of Health Care System
• More funding for Health Care Facilities
Most farmers: satisfy will not ENLARGE ag workforce
Stretch: mechanical aids to raise worker productivity
Bell peppers: with and without conveyor belt
Substitute: mechanize olives, carrots, tomatoes, nursery
H-2A Positions Certified

Source: Department of Labor, Office of Foreign Labor Certification
Farmworkers who can prove at least 100 days of employment in U.S. agriculture over the last two years could apply for a “blue card”

**Sponsor:** Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA] (Introduced 05/03/2017)

**Committees:** Senate - Judiciary

**Latest Action:** Senate - 05/03/2017 Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**Tracker:**

- Introduced
- Passed Senate
- Passed House
- To President
- Became Law

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gutiérrez, Luis V. [D-IL -4] (Introduced 05/25/2017)

**Committees:** House - Judiciary, Ways and Means

**Latest Action:** House - 07/11/2017 Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.

**Tracker:**

- Introduced
- Passed House
- Passed Senate
- To President
- Became Law
Provide Medicaid Across State/County Lines

- Especially important for migrant families who move often.
- Quicker application and guaranteed enrollment at new residence
Health Promotores

• Recognize the important contributions of promotores in reaching vulnerable, low-income and underserved members of Latino/Hispanic populations, and

• Promote the increased engagement of promotores to support health education and prevention efforts and access to health insurance programs.
Salud en español para usted y su familia
Manténgase comunicado con sus médicos de Kaiser Permanente en el Norte de California

Busque un médico o un tema de salud

Encuentre y elija su médico

Use recursos en línea

Cuide su salud en cada etapa