

# REGIONAL STREAM FORUMS

## 2022 IMPACT REPORT

Prepared by: National Center for Farmworker Health

### Overview

Each year regional agricultural-worker advocates, health and social service providers, policy makers, and other interested individuals gather in a series of three conferences called Regional Stream Forums. Each conference is located in one of the three traditional migratory streams: Western Stream, Midwest Stream, and Eastern Stream. Each stream represents the flow of migratory and seasonal agricultural workers (MSAWs) as they follow the harvest.

The Regional Stream Forums provide agricultural worker-specific continuing education to providers of health care and social services in health centers, as well as networking opportunities among these professionals in the field. The conferences present an opportunity for participants to discuss regional and national trends that affect agricultural workers and share successful strategies for addressing agricultural worker needs. These gatherings of individuals who work with and serve agricultural workers and their families on a daily basis provide an opportunity to renew commitment and passion to provide the best possible services to improve agricultural workers' health and well-being.

### Hosts & Regional Forums

This year's Forums were hosted and organized by the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA), the National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH), and the North Carolina Community Health Center Association (NCCHCA). NCFH sponsors all three Forums and provides support to the host organizations. Each Forum was offered in various formats (in-person, virtual, and hybrid) considering the changing COVID-19 guidance across the country.

#### **Western Forum for Migrant and Community Health**

Northwest Regional Primary Care Association  
April 11-13, 2022  
Portland, Oregon  
In-person and virtual  
31 educational sessions  
230 attendees

#### **Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Health**

National Center for Farmworker Health  
March 28-30, 2022  
Austin, Texas  
In-person  
32 educational sessions  
163 attendees

#### **East Coast Migrant Stream Forum**

North Carolina Community Health Center Association  
April 26-29, 2022  
Virtual  
27 educational sessions  
250 attendees

## Planning

Each host organization convened regional Planning Committees composed of health center staff, representatives from the Farmworker Health Network, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Migrant Head Start, National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH), and academia to assist in the selection of the educational content. The Planning Committees worked to address priority areas for workforce development of health center staff to achieve quality of care and reduce the health disparities experienced by agricultural workers and their families.

This year, the Midwest and Western Forums utilized a platform for conference coordination and facilitation, called Whova. The use of this app sparked new event engagement through attendee networking, photo sharing, discussion boards, facilitating Q&A sessions, live polls, organizing meetups, and more.

## Special Highlights

Each host organization highlighted the 60th Anniversary of the Migrant Health Act of 1962 in their conference programming. This landmark legislation sowed the seeds for what would later become the Community Health Center Program. The bill emphasized the need for simple and flexible services adapted to the needs of migrant workers, and focused on the provision of health services. This legislation paved the way for the Migrant Health Program and its current 178 Migrant Health Centers that serve agricultural worker populations across the country today. All three Regional Stream Forums included a video update from Jim Macrae, Associate Administrator from HRSA's Bureau of Primary Health Care, who applauded this great accomplishment and celebrated the positive impact of the Migrant Health Program.

The 60th Anniversary was also a prominent feature at the 30th Annual Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health. NCFH focused their conference theme on this milestone, created a badge celebrating 60 years, and exhibited a historical timeline throughout the 3-day event.



At the Western Forum for Migrant and Community Health, NWRPCA also highlighted this milestone with keynote speaker, Cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz, creating a special illustration to commemorate this celebration.

The East Coast Migrant Stream Forum featured and discussed the 60th anniversary during a general session.

Aside from celebrating 60 years of Migrant Health, NCFH also provided an update on the Ag Worker Access Campaign at each Regional Stream Forum, sharing an overview of the Campaign's goals, recent activities, and latest UDS reporting from migrant health funded health centers. Attendees from each Forum were invited to join the Campaign and make a commitment to increase access to quality healthcare for agricultural workers and their families. Attendees engaged in small group discussions and were invited to share their commitments out loud at in person Forums and through an online Jamboard at the virtual Forum. A total of 116 "Call to Action" commitment cards and over 73 "Ask me why I care" about the agricultural worker population comments were compiled from attendees across all Forums (see an example of each below). These Campaign updates motivated 44 new individuals and organizational members to join the Ag Worker Access Campaign.



*As a child of former farmworker immigrants and as a migrant farm worker, I would like to help those who need additional services; those that have barriers in getting/finding the most basic needs. With all of us together, it can be possible! ¡Si se puede!*

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**I commit to:**

*Join Agworker Access when I return  
work a outreach worker to get out into the fields to  
increase knowledge of access to care.  
Take Mobile Unit out to increase access to care <sup>without</sup> ~~in order to~~ <sup>increasing transportation issues</sup> ~~increase~~ access to care for Ag Workers and their families!*

*[I commit to] join Ag Worker Access when I return [and] work with outreach worker to get out into the fields to increase knowledge of access to care, [and] take mobile unit out to increase access to care without increasing transportation issues.*

## Educational Content

Each Regional Stream Forum offered multiple tracks for participants to choose from to meet their diverse educational needs:

Regional Stream Forum	Tracks Provided
Western Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHWs</li> <li>• Transformative Partnerships &amp; Practices</li> <li>• Policy &amp; Environment</li> <li>• Social Determinants of Health</li> <li>• Innovative Communications Strategies</li> <li>• Trauma-Informed Praxis</li> </ul>
Midwest Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emerging issues</li> <li>• Diabetes Management and Prevention</li> <li>• Social Determinants of Health</li> <li>• Access to Care/Service Delivery for MSAWs</li> </ul>
Eastern Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical</li> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Leadership Development</li> <li>• Health Center Controlled Networks</li> </ul>

## Stream Forum Goals & Sessions

While each Forum had different tracks, the programs' content addressed the Bureau of Primary Health Care's (BPHC) 2022 Overarching Priorities for the Regional Stream Forums, including a variety of intensive and educational sessions on emerging issues, diabetes, social determinants of health (SDOH), and MSAW access to care. Forum goals were identified based on BPHC's Overarching Priorities for the Regional Stream Forums. The four Forum goals with a comprehensive list of educational session titles are outlined in the table below.

### Goal 1: Emerging Issues

Increase knowledge and understanding of the emerging issues most prevalent in the MSAW population, to include prevention, screening, treatment, service delivery models, tools, and resources.

#### Session Titles

- Coalition Efforts to Support Farmworkers During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Community Health Workers: Supporting Special Populations through a Pandemic
- Community Liberation: Emotional Health for Latinx By Latinx
- Cosecha: A Programmatic Strategy Bridging Farmworkers to COVID Services in Florida
- Enhancing the Delivery of Care for the Indigenous Population
  - Language Access in Healthcare for and with Indigenous Language Speakers
  - Emergency Preparedness for Indigenous Communities
  - COVID-19 Consequences Among Hispanic and Indigenous Agricultural Workers in California, USA, and Michoacan Mexico
- Explore Effective Outreach for High-Risk Populations – STIs, HIV, and Hepatitis Outreach Efforts and Recruiting
- Farmworker COVID-19 Community Assessments
- Organizational Strategies to Foster a Healthy Environment Through Resiliency and Self-Care
  - Building Workforce Resiliency in Times of Change
  - Creating a Culture of Self-Care at Your Organization
- Reasonable Hope During Times of Great Challenges: Doing Hope Together
- Understanding the Mental Health Needs of Unaccompanied Immigrant Children from Latin America\*
- Utilizing an Arts-Based Approach to Improve Mental Health and Stress in Ag Worker Communities
- Voices from the Fields: Agricultural Workers and COVID-19\*
- Working Together to Identify Modifiable Factors in Agricultural Workplaces that can Contribute to Stress & Anxiety
- Identifying, Assessing, and Responding to Human Trafficking in a Healthcare Setting
- Strategies to Mitigate COVID-19 among MSAWs
  - Rapid Assessment Tools for MSAW Communities\*
  - Novel Cohort Process to Minimize COVID-19 Infection in Migratory and Seasonal Ag Workers

## Goal 2: Diabetes

Improve delivery of diabetes management and prevention for the MSAW population through increased knowledge of promising practices and partnership development strategies.

### Session Titles

- Diabetes Education: Results from a Three-Hour Practical Class in Guatemala
- Diabetes Prevention for the Whole Family
- Diabetes: Prevention, Popular Education, & Promotoras de Salud
- Juntos Nos Movemos: Promising Practices for Combatting Diabetes in MSAW Families
- Optimal Care and Management of Diabetes and Heart Disease for Successful Outcomes
- Structural Competency: Analyzing & Addressing the Structural Factors of Diabetes\*
- DSMES in FQHCs: Increase Quality, Reduce Burden\*
  - Know Diabetes by Heart: CHWs Providing Diabetes Support in Health Disparate Communities
  - Successful Outcomes and Lessons Learned in Addressing Type 2 Diabetes Among Agricultural Workers During a Pandemic

## Goal 3: MSAW Access to Care & Service Delivery

Improve access to service delivery models, innovative strategies, and promising practices that address all issues that impact access to care for the MSAW population.

### Session Titles

- Agricultural Worker Health 101\*
- Back to the Future: Preparing for Integrated High-Quality Care
- Best Practices and Collaborative Approaches for Increasing Agricultural Worker Health Engagement
  - Juntos with Migratory and Seasonal Ag Workers
  - Convening and Engaging a Farmworker Feedback Committee
- Beyond Paper Forms: Use of Mobile Apps for Patient Registration, Screening, and Education in the Field
- Building Integrated Programs to Mitigate and Improve Resilience Related to Adverse Childhood Events (ACE's)
- CHWs are Essential to Addressing MSAW Mental Health\*
- Community Health Workers in Primary Care: Successful Strategies for Integration into Patient-Centered Care Teams
- Digital Literacy: Tools for Outreach Workers and Farmworkers to Find Reliable Health Information Online
- Ensuring Accurate ID, Classification & Reporting in UDS to Increase Access to Quality Healthcare for MSAWs\*
- Health Implications of the Aging Crop Worker Population\*
- How FQHCs Can Lead in Providing 'Empowered' Health
- Improving Health Outcomes through Virtual Optimization
  - Hardware, Software, Aware: The Process of Using Technology to Advance Migrant Health and Healthcare Access
  - Telehealth: Why It's Still Important Even Without COVID-19
- Maternal, Infant, and Child Health
- Policy Update to Inform Agricultural Workers & Ensure Healthcare Access
- Promoting Digital Equity and Inclusion for the Farmworker Community in North Carolina
- Recognition, Management, Prevention of Heat-Related Illness Among Agricultural Workers\*
- The CHW Common Indicators Project: Engaging CHWs in Measurement to Sustain the Profession
- The Pathway for the Personal & Professional Development of Promotoras
- The Role of Community Health Workers in Medical and Dental Integration

## Goal 4: Social Determinants of Health

Increase of knowledge and understanding of SDOH issues most prevalent in the MSAW population, availability of SDOH screening tools and resources, and strategies for partnership development.

### Session Titles

- “Healing Ourselves by Healing the Earth”: Community Gardening as a Promising Practice to Address Social Determinants of Health and Mental Health Among MSAW Women
- 100 Teams are Better than 1: Building Cross-Sector, State-Local Partnerships to Support Ag Worker Health during COVID and Beyond
- Collaborative Partnerships Between Nurse Practitioners and Community Outreach Workers to Improve Health Equity and Outcomes for Migrant Farmworkers
- Conducting Outreach and Building Referral Networks
- Considerations for Partnering with Ag Employers & Serving H-2A Workers
- Developing Health Education Radio dramas on a Limited Budget
- Federal Language Regulations & Language Equity Standards & Practices
- Health Literacy to Address Opioid Use in Agricultural Worker Communities\*
- Immigration Policy, Today and Tomorrow: What’s Needed to Serve Patients\*
- Partnerships to Create Accessible COVID-19 Materials for MSAWs
- Partnerships/Strategies Ensuring Inclusion of Historically Marginalized Voices in Assessments
- Reaching Migrant Agricultural Workers: Considerations for Partnering with Ag Employers & Serving H-2A Workers
- Screening for Social Determinants of Health, Resources, and Implementation Considerations for Ag Worker Populations
- SDOH Screening and Response
- Triple Threat Health Literacy, Misinformation & the Opioid Crisis

*\*Sessions with an asterisk were conducted at more than one Regional Stream Forum.*

## Plenary Sessions

This year’s plenary sessions featured keynote speakers that provided valuable information and inspiration for participants to integrate into their work and take home to share with colleagues.

### Western Stream Forum

The Western Stream Forum Opening Plenary featured a panel of expert frontline staff from migrant health centers who spoke passionately and eloquently about the essential role that Community Health Workers play in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and caring for farmworker communities year-round. The conference wrapped up with a closing keynote by Lalo Alcaraz, an award-winning political cartoonist who shared his experiences developing public health messaging cartoons regarding the COVID-19 vaccine for Latino and farmworker communities.

### Midwest Stream Forum

The Midwest Stream Forum Opening Plenary featured Sam Byrd, Director of *Centro de Comunidad y Justicia* in Boise, Idaho, who provided an inspiring and engaging keynote presentation which highlighted the conference theme of honoring the past and looking to the future in recognition of celebrating 60 years in Migrant Health. He stated to attendees that we are all on a journey, but the most important one is that from our mind to our heart, for that is where the dedication, commitment, and willingness to be able to continue in our work is found.

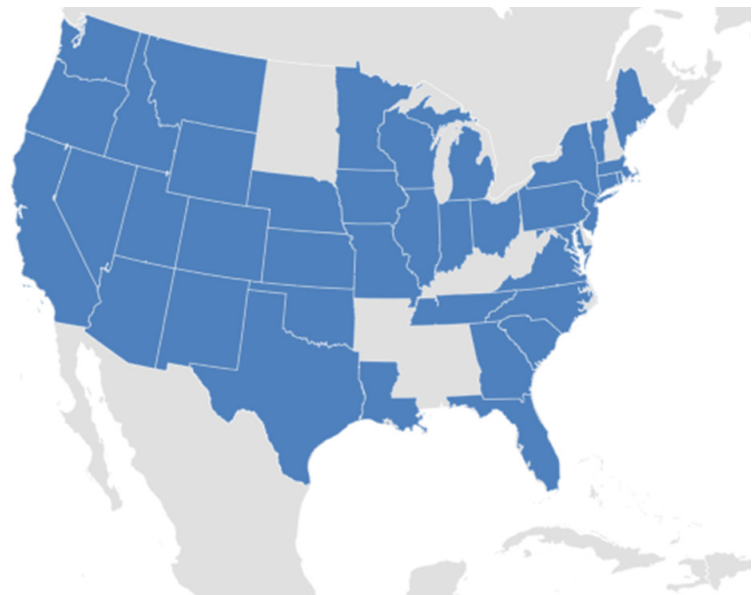
## East Coast Stream Forum

The East Coast Stream Forum opened with Maxine Henry, Associate Director of National Latino Behavioral Health Association, who presented on the topic of resiliency and how to use culturally grounded approaches to address compassion fatigue and mitigate burnout. Kaethe Weingarten, Director of Witness to Witness Program at Migrant Clinicians Network led an interactive plenary session focused on the importance of self-care and shared hopefulness in challenging times.

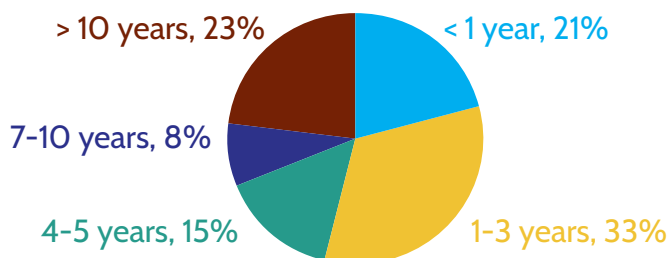
## Activities & Outcomes

### Attendee Snapshot

There was a total of **643 attendees** from across many disciplines in migrant health, with the majority identifying their primary responsibility as Community Health Workers, outreach workers, health care providers, administrative staff, and program coordinators & directors. Attendees included **over 50 unique health centers** across all Forums and represented nearly every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, as illustrated on the map below.



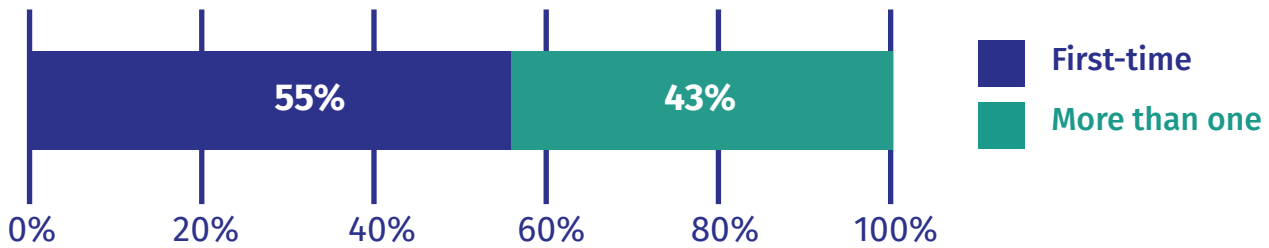
### Participants brought a wide range of experience in migrant health to the Forums



Attendees brought a wide range of experience to each Forum. On average across all three Regional Stream Forums, attendees' years of experience in the field of migrant health was well balanced - about half of participants had less than 3 years of experience and about half of participants had at least 4 years of experience.

In addition, slightly more than half of participants attended for the first time this year on average across all three Forums, demonstrating the ability of the Stream Forum to recruit both returning and new participants.

### Slightly more than half of participants attended a Stream Forum for the first time



## Educational Outcomes

A total of **90 educational sessions** were conducted across the three Stream Forums, including plenary and break-out sessions. Collectively, the Stream Forums provided **120.75 Continuing Education Units (CEUs)** to provide educational credit in the professional areas of medicine, nursing, social work, counseling, and community health worker (including CME, CHES, CNE, SW, and CHW).

Host organizations used multiple methods for evaluating outcomes of the Stream Forums. Following each session, attendees completed feedback forms to rate their overall satisfaction with the session, changes to their knowledge as a result of the session, and their confidence to apply information from the session at their health center or organization on a 5-point scale, 5 being the highest score. Stream Forum attendees also completed an overall survey after each conference.

Analysis of survey results from all three Forums indicate high levels of attendee satisfaction, high levels of knowledge gained by attendees from educational sessions, and high confidence in attendees' ability to implement new knowledge and skills.



The following table lists the average confidence, knowledge, and satisfaction ratings across all sessions at each Stream Forum:

	<b>Rating</b>
<b>Confidence</b>	
Western Stream Forum	3.64
Midwest Stream Forum	4.12
East Coast Stream Forum	4.24
<b>Average</b>	<b>4.00</b>
<b>Knowledge</b>	
Western Stream Forum	3.72
Midwest Stream Forum	3.97
East Coast Stream Forum	3.93
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.87</b>
<b>Satisfaction</b>	
Western Stream Forum	3.90
Midwest Stream Forum	4.29
East Coast Stream Forum	4.45
<b>Average</b>	<b>4.21</b>



The following table lists the sessions with the highest satisfaction score average at each Stream Forum:

<b>Session Name</b>	<b>Satisfaction</b>
<b>Western Stream Forum</b>	
Structural Competency: Analyzing & Addressing the Structural Factors of Diabetes	5.00
Developing Health Education Radiodramas on a Limited Budget	4.76
Voices from the Fields: Farmworkers & COVID-19	4.71
<b>Midwest Stream Forum</b>	
Agricultural Worker Health 101	4.89
Hardware, Software, Aware: The Process of Using Technology	4.86
Ensuring Accurate ID, Classification & Reporting in UDS	4.83
<b>East Coast Stream Forum</b>	
Understanding the Mental Health Needs of Unaccompanied Immigrant Children from Latin America	5.00
Reasonable Hope During Times of Great Challenges: Doing Hope Together	4.92
Immigration Policy, Today and Tomorrow: What Migrant and Community Health Center Staff Need to Know	4.62

## Impactful Concepts

Attendees were asked to identify concepts from the educational sessions they would like to implement in their workplace or concepts that stood out to them the most. Participants frequently mentioned trauma-informed care, Community Health Workers, support for health center staff, communication with agricultural workers, immigration issues, mental health, community partnerships, social determinants of health, and UDS reporting.

## Concepts to implement and/or remember

“ACEs and PACEs are important aspects in understanding how a person has developed into the person they are”

“Community Health Workers are trusted and key in the work with our communities”

“Community Health Workers are essential in touching the lives of families and addressing mental health needs of communities”

“In our work, we need to express empathy, promote action, and have a consistent message”

“Mental health is a big deal and our people struggle sharing that. It is important to follow up with those that say they do not need mental health, sometimes it is the wording”

“Look for more collaboration with other community agencies to better serve ag workers”

“Social Determinants of Health impact migrant and immigrant populations and require focused attention and further research”

“Importance of identification of MSAWs in the UDS”

Attendees were also asked to provide their ideas for topics to be covered at future Stream Forums.

## Topics for future Stream Forums

Community Health Worker policy advocacy

Community Health Worker sustainability

Continuing care for migrant families as they travel

Cultural “My Healthy Plate” models

Cultural competency/humility

Employee motivation/retention

Food insecurity among MSAWs

Health equity

How to serve & engage H-2A workers

How to train health center staff on the importance of interpreters

How to address language & technology barriers to provide equitable services

Ideas and strategies for outreach in farmworker communities

Immigration issues

Leadership development

Mental health in immigrants

Mobile Health Units

Social determinants of health

Trauma-informed care

## Partnerships

The 2022 Regional Stream Forums were possible through the creation of partnerships and cross-disciplinary collaboration. Partners joined Planning Committees, provided workshops as presenters, hosted exhibitor booths, and contributed sponsorships. Each Forum had presenters representing universities/research institutions, health centers, government (local, state, federal), non-profits, Primary Care Associations (PCAs), National Training and Technical Assistance Partners (NTTAPs), and numerous other organizations including consultant groups, coalitions, private foundations, primary education, and other private entities. This rich collaborative environment provided networking opportunities for presenters and attendees to build new relationships and partnerships.

The table below illustrates the breadth of partners that came together to provide attendees with a comprehensive, informative, and collaborative event.

<b>Sector</b>	<b># of Partner Organizations</b>	<b>Examples of Partner Organizations</b>
Universities/Research Institutions	18	Arizona State University, North Carolina State University, University of Texas, Washington State University
Health Centers	20	Ampla Health, Keystone Health, Oak Orchard Community Health, Proteus, Valley-Wide Health Systems, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center
Government	21	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Migrant Head Start, Health Resources & Services Administration, State and County Health Departments, National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health, US Department of Labor
Non-profits	28	Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists, American Diabetes Association, Global Nutrition Empowerment, Migrant Legal Action Program, Rural Women's Health Project
PCAs/NTTAPs	19	California Primary Care Association, Colorado Community Health Network, Farmworker Health Network Members
Other (Consultants, Private, etc.)	13	Watt Farms Country Market, The Next Door, Radio KDNS

## Conclusion

The Regional Stream Forums provided workforce development and education for health care center staff and associated professionals. Attendees gained knowledge specifically about the agricultural worker population and HRSA priority areas, as well as developed skills to implement concepts at their organizations. The three Forums hosted in the Western, Midwest, and Eastern regions allowed for region-specific workshops and topics affecting the unique characteristics of that region's population. The regional nature of the Forums, along with virtual options, also created an affordable option with limited or no travel for professional development for health care staff. Additionally, the Forums offered an opportunity for professionals across sectors to engage and learn from each other, some being in-person for the first time since 2020 and the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. This opportunity allowed attendees to build upon successes, drive new collaborative projects to address emerging issues, as well as renew their commitment to providing the best possible care and service to agricultural communities.



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