Agricultural Worker Health 101
An Introduction to Agricultural Worker Health

Presented by Farmworker Health Network

Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health
Sept. 10-12, 2018
New Orleans, LA

Photo: MHP Salud
Workshop Components

1. Historical Perspectives and Legislation
2. Agricultural Workers - Population
3. Agricultural Workers - Health Needs, Risks and Challenges
4. Structure of the Agricultural Health Program
5. Resources for Technical Assistance and Training
Timeline of Legislative Action

**Migrant Health Act**
Aid to agencies that provide community health services to agricultural workers and their families

**Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act**
Basic labor protections under labor contractors

**Health Centers Consolidation Act**
Consolidates MHC, HCH, public housing and CHCs under Section 330 Authority

**Public Health Service Act**
Health Center Program authorized under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act.

**Worker Protection Standard**
Sets minimum standards for protecting farmworkers from pesticide exposure

**ARRA**
stimulus legislation provides for $2 Billion for the CHC Program (25% for construction, renovation and HIT).

**ACA Enacted**
Includes a major expansion of health centers, dedicating $9.5 billion to serve 20 million new patients by 2015 and $1.5 billion for capital needs for new health centers.

**ACA fully implemented**
Agriculture means farming in all its branches as defined by the Office of Management (OMB)-developed North America Industrial Classification System (NAICS), and includes migratory and seasonal agricultural workers employed in the agricultural sector within the following NAICS codes and all sub-codes.

### 2012 NAICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Crop Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1111</td>
<td>Oilseed and Grain Farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1112</td>
<td>Vegetable and Melon Farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1113</td>
<td>Fruit and Tree Nut Farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Animal Production and Aquaculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1121</td>
<td>Cattle Ranching and Farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1122</td>
<td>Hog and Pig Farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1123</td>
<td>Poultry and Egg Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1151</td>
<td>Support Activities for Crop Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1152</td>
<td>Support Activities for Animal Production</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Workers employed in the following industries are not eligible for the Agricultural Health Program:

- Transportation of Livestock (Industry 488999)
- Meat and Meat Product Merchant Wholesalers (Industry 42447)
- Landscaping (Industry 561730)
- Spectator Sporting (Industry 711219)
- Trucking Timber (Industry 484220)

Photo Sources:
1. www.bing.com/images/search?
2. www.fotosearch.com/glow-images/horse-racing
3. www.horticultureunlimited.com/images/landscaping-work.jpg
4. www.hankstruckpictures.com/pacific.htm
Definitions
Section 330g of the Public Health Service Act

Migratory Agricultural Worker
- Principal employment is in agriculture
- Has been so employed within the last 24 months
- Establishes a temporary home for the purpose of such employment

Seasonal Agricultural Worker
- Principal employment is in agriculture on a seasonal basis
- Does not migrate

Aged & Disabled Agricultural Worker
- Individual who has previously been migratory agricultural worker but who no longer meets the requirements ... because of age or disability
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Photo: MHP Salud
Agricultural Worker Demographics\textsuperscript{1,2,3}

2.5 million
estimated population\textsuperscript{2,3}

25,000
children ages 14 - 17
work in agriculture

72%
male

28%
female

44%
are under the age of 35

Agricultural Worker Demographics

- 74% Spanish (dominant language)
- 73% foreign born
  - Mexico (68%)
  - Central America (4%)
- 38% had not visited a U.S. healthcare provider in last 2 years
Agricultural Worker Demographics

Mean and medium individual income range from $15,000 to $17,499

30% of agricultural worker families had total family incomes below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level

65% reported not having health insurance

Foreign born workers, on average, have a 8th grade education
Number of Agricultural Workers by State

Total Population of Agricultural Workers
- < 20,000
- 20,000 - 50,000
- 50,000 - 100,000
- 100,000 - 200,000
- 200,000 - 300,000
- 300,000 - 525,000
- > 1,000,000

NCFH
National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc.
Patterns of Mobility

Restricted Circuit

- Following crops in one area.
- Often centered around a home base.
- Usually a couple adults from the household move to work but they come home frequently.
Patterns of Mobility

Point to Point

- Moves away from home base for extended period of time.
- Often goes back to same location for multiple years.
- Often a whole family travels together.
Patterns of Mobility

**Nomadic**

- Travels to wherever there is work.
- Usually does not know when or to where s/he will next move.
- Generally foreign born, young, single men working in the United States and sending money home.
Changing Patterns

- Increasing number of H-2A workers
- More males traveling alone
- More established in rural communities as seasonal workers
- Less trans-border crossing
- Engaged in other industries during the off season (construction, meat processing, dairy and others)
- Increasing number of indigenous agricultural workers
- Less available housing (more dispersion of population)

Source: Passel, 2006
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Photo: MHP Salud
In 2016, 593 agricultural workers died of work-related injuries

Work-Related Health Risks

- Heat stress
- Equipment & automobile accidents
- Lacerations from sharp equipment and hand tools
- Falls from ladders
- Eye injuries
- Musculoskeletal injuries
- Insect/rodent/snake bites
Pesticide exposure in the fields and at home
Illnesses Related to Unsanitary Conditions and Substandard Housing

- Gastro-intestinal diseases
- Intestinal parasites
- Urinary tract infections
- Conjunctivitis
- Lead poisoning
Chronic Conditions

- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Cancer
- HIV/AIDS
- Tuberculosis
- Obesity
- Asthma
Mental Health

Anxiety
Stress
Depression
Substance abuse
Domestic violence
Contributing Factors to Mental Health Challenges

- Separation from families
- Discrimination
- Isolation
- Fear due to immigration status
Barriers to Care and Healthy Lifestyles

• Cultural issues such as language, literacy, medical knowledge, health care practices and beliefs, and dietary practices

• Social support absent because of social exclusion or isolation

• Food insecurity and/or lack of access to healthy foods
Barriers to Care and Healthy Lifestyles

- **Poverty**: unreliable transportation, lack of insurance, inability to buy services and supplies, and substandard housing

- **Limited job security** increases the possibility that workers will remain in a dangerous or questionable job to remain employed
  - Unavailability of sick leave
  - Fear of employer retaliation

Photo © Erin Bascom
Barriers to Care and Healthy Lifestyles

- **Constant mobility** causing discontinuity of care
- **Immigration status** of patient and/or family members
- **Racism** that motivates policies or actions that frighten members of particular racial/ethnic groups.
- **Confusion about U.S. health systems**
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Public Health Section 330 Delivery Sites

• In 2017, BPHC supported over 1,373 health care grantees including homeless, school based, public housing and migrant health

• In 2017, 174 of those were funded to provide services to the migratory and seasonal agricultural worker population

• 972,251 agricultural workers were reported as served by all Health Center Program Grantees in 2017

Migrant Health Grantees + Satellite Sites*

Source: www.hrsa.gov
Health Center Funding

Health Center budgets range between $500,000 and $25 million. The Bureau provides approximately 28% of the health centers’ total budget. For every dollar provided by the Bureau, the health center must raise three additional dollars.

Photo: MHP Salud
Required Services for 330(g) Programs

- Primary care services
- Preventive services
- Emergency services
- Pharmacy services
- Outreach and enabling services
Service Delivery Challenges

Continuity of Care

• Agricultural workers may seek care only when necessary
• Agricultural workers may move during treatment
• Communication between MHCs and other providers is difficult

Culture and Language

• Provision of multi-lingual services (reception, health education, prescriptions, bilingual staff/translators, etc.)
• Relevant training and continuing education for staff

Photo by Tony Loreti for MHP Salud
Service Delivery Challenges

Operations

• Integration of walk-in patients into appointment system
• Health Center hours of operation
• Demand/Capacity
• Provision of transportation in rural areas

Costs

• MHCs must remain competitive despite the escalating costs in the health care industry
• Lack of insurance coverage of the population
• Outreach and enabling services are not reimbursable
Exploring Effective Adaptations for Mobility and Culture
Cultural adaptations
- Culturally sensitive education
- Appropriate language and literacy levels
- Address cultural health beliefs & values

Mobility adaptations
- Portable medical records & Bridge Case Management
- EHR transmission to other C/MHCs

Appropriate service delivery models
- Case Management
- Lay health promoters (Promotores/as)
- Outreach & enabling services
- Coordination with schools and worksites
- Mobile Units
Voucher Program Model

- Used where a traditional model may not be the best option.
  - Short growing seasons
  - Lower numbers or density of Agricultural Workers
- Provide services to Ag Workers through either one or some combination of a service coordinator model, nurse staffed model, or midlevel practitioner staffed model
- An organized outreach program is critical to increase access to services
Patient Centered Medical Homes Adapted for Agricultural Worker Patients
Easy Access to Care

✓ **Orient** all patients to the scheduling protocols, recognizing that patients may be unfamiliar with scheduling practices or U.S. healthcare systems.

✓ **Document** the numbers of agricultural workers in your area by month, typical work hours and transportation options.

✓ Open Access scheduling permits an influx of mobile agricultural worker patients to be seen during **seasonal variance**.

✓ **Accommodate** the work hours, transportation and geographic barriers experienced by mobile workers.
“Mobile-Friendly” Care Management AND Referral Tracking and Follow-up

Health Network

Bridge Case Management

- Ongoing communication
- Patient care coordination services
- Easy enrollment
- Health education provided to mobile patients
- Store & transfer medical records
- Toll free access
- Expert bilingual & culturally competent staff
AG WORKER ACCESS 2020 CAMPAIGN

NCFH
National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
JOIN THE AG WORKER ACCESS 2020 CAMPAIGN

Approximately 20% of Ag Workers are being served in Community & Migrant Health Centers. The goal is to increase that number to 2 million people served. We can’t do it without your help!

I CARE ABOUT AMERICA’S AGRICULTURAL WORKERS
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Photo by Tony Loreti for MHP Salud
How to Find the Closest Health Center

HRSA - Community Health Center Directory: http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/

NCFH - Migrant Health Center Pocket Directory: http://www.ncfh.org/docs/2014%20MHC%20directory.pdf or call 1-800-531-5120


Free Clinics Directory: Call 540-344-8242
Resources for Training and Technical Assistance

Farmworker Justice
www.farmworkerjustice.org

Health Outreach Partners
www.outreach-partners.org

MHP Salud
www.mhpsalud.org

MCN
www.migrantclinician.org

National Association of Community Health Centers
www.nachc.com

National Center for Farmworker Health
www.ncfh.org

PCA Special Populations Points of Contact
Farmworker Justice is a nonprofit organization that seeks to empower farmworkers and their families to improve their living and working conditions, immigration status, health, occupational safety, and access to justice.

Using a multi-faceted approach, Farmworker Justice engages in litigation, administrative and legislative advocacy, training and technical assistance, coalition-building, public education, and support for union organizing.

Washington, DC
202-293-5420
www.farmworkerjustice.org
Farmworker Justice

• Policy - T/TA on policy issues affecting agricultural worker health and access to health care

• Community collaborations – Promote partnerships among health centers, legal services, Migrant and Seasonal Head Start, and community-based organizations
FJ Resources

• **Health center staff**

• **Workers and Outreach Staff**
  - Guides on: health insurance, skin cancer, health center, sliding fee discount schedule, disaster assistance (housing, income, food assistance), *diabetes*
    
    *(available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole)*

Materials available on Farmworker Justice website
  – www.farmworkerjustice.org/content/health-initiatives-resources
Since 1970, **Health Outreach Partners** (HOP) has been at the forefront of elevating the importance of outreach, recognizing the critical role it plays in increasing access to primary care and facilitating case management, health promotion and disease prevention, and related social services to underserved populations, including agricultural workers and their families.

HOP offers a wide range of customized training, consultation, and information services to assist community-based organizations in building strong, sustainable, grassroots community health models that improve the health and well being of agricultural workers and other vulnerable populations.

**HOP Priority Areas:**
- Health Outreach and Enabling Services
- Program Planning and Development
- Needs Assessment and Evaluation Data
- Health Education and Promotion
- Community Collaboration and Coalition Building
- Cultural Competency

[www.outreach-partners.org](http://www.outreach-partners.org)
Oakland, CA
Transportation

• Barriers to Health Access for Ag Workers
  – Limited or unreliable access to vehicles
  – Rural location
    • Limited access to public transportation
    • Long travel distances
  – Missed work hours

• Solutions to Transportation Barriers
  – Mobile clinics and/or clinical outreach
  – Hours of clinical operation
  – Fixed-route shuttle services
  – Vouchers or other reimbursement
Outreach

• Facilitates access to quality health care and social services
• Brings linguistically and culturally responsive health care directly to communities
• Helps patients to become equal partners in their health care
• Builds trusting relationships
• Increases the community’s awareness of the presence of underserved populations
MHP Salud builds on community strengths to improve health in farmworker and border communities. We train community leaders to be Promotores and Promotoras de Salud.

Promotores(as) belong to the same culture and speak the same language as the people they serve. They...
- Provide culturally appropriate health education
- Make referrals to health and social services
- Encourage people to seek care
- Empower community members
- Bring health to farmworkers where they live

We can help you...
- Design an effective Promotora program
- Find funding opportunities and draft budgets
- Create an evaluation plan
- Train Program Coordinators and Promotores(as)
- Locate and develop health education materials

956.968.3600
info@mhpsalud.org
www.mhpsalud.org
MHP Salud implements Community Health Worker programs to empower underserved Latino communities and promotes the CHW model nationally as a culturally appropriate strategy to improve health.

Contact us today: www.mhpsalud.org • info@mhpsalud.org
We bring our **35 years of experience implementing CHW programs** to help you start or strengthen your own program in your own community. We provide:

- **CHW training** aligned with national and state recognized core competencies and certification programs
- **CHW Supervisor training** and other team members working with CHWs to ensure the whole organization invests in the CHW program’s success
- **Ongoing technical assistance** at any stage of CHW program planning, implementation or evaluation
- **Dozens of free resources** on CHW program planning and management

Contact us today: [www.mhpsalud.org](http://www.mhpsalud.org) • info@mhpsalud.org
MCN is a national, not-for-profit organization founded in 1984 by clinicians working in agricultural health. MCN’s mission is to be a force for health justice for the mobile poor. The organization is the oldest and largest clinical network serving the mobile underserved. MCN strives to improve the health care of agricultural workers and other mobile poor populations through innovation and clinical excellence in providing research, programming, support, technical assistance, and professional development services to clinicians.

Main Office
P.O. Box 164285
Austin, TX 78716
(512) 327-2017 phone
(512) 327-0719 fax
www.migrantclinician.org
MCN provides high-quality continuing education to health care providers serving mobile and underserved populations. MCN’s comprehensive clinical education program disseminates best models and practices, facilitates the development of clinical leadership, and advances excellence in practice.

**Clinician Education**

- **25 TRAININGS**
- **716 CLINICIANS TRAINED**

**PROJECT ECHO**

MCN launched ECHO projects enabling peer-to-peer networking, greater resource distribution, and rapid communication when clinicians need it most.

- **42 PARTICIPANTS**
- **20 HEALTH CENTERS**
- **186 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION**
MCN’s Health Network assures continuity of care and treatment completion by providing comprehensive case management, medical records transfer, and follow-up services for mobile patients. To date we have worked with:

114 ENGAGED PARTNER COUNTRIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>CASES CLOSED</th>
<th>GROWTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,782</td>
<td>+120%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1,115</td>
<td>+38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,022</td>
<td>+26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>807</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

89% INCREASED COMMUNICATION WITH HEALTH CENTERS

61% INCREASED USAGE BY HEALTH CENTERS
Founded in 1970, the **National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc.** (NACHC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance and expand access to quality, community-responsive health care for America’s medically underserved and uninsured. In serving its mission, NACHC represents the nation’s network of over 1,000 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) which serve 16 million people through 5,000 sites located in all of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam.

7200 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 210
Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone: 301-347-0400
Fax: 301-347-0459
www.nachc.org
Join

THE CAMPAIGN FOR AMERICA'S HEALTH CENTERS

NACHC ALERTS

6.5.12  NEW: COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS AND VETERAN HIRING issue brief – Now Available for download!

NACHC News

8.6.12  President Barack Obama Issues Proclamation for National Health Center Week

HHS Secretary Sebelius Participates in Tele-Town Hall with Health Center Leaders

8.3.12  Three new briefs on how Community Health Centers are powering healthier communities

CHI Registration Open

2012 Candidates Forum

2012 House of Delegates
Sunday, September 9, 2012, Orlando, Florida
For participation, ¼ organizational dues must be paid by Friday, August 10, 2012
Voting by Proxy
The National Center for Farmworker Health is a private, not-for-profit corporation located in Buda, Texas, whose mission is "to improve the health status of agricultural worker families through the provision of innovative training, technical assistance, and information services to Migrant and Community Health Centers."

Programs, products, and services in support of our mission, include:

- Population specific resources and technical assistance
- Governance development and training
- Program management
- Staff development and training
- Health education resources and program development

1770 FM 967  Buda, TX 78610  
(512) 312-2700  (800) 531-5120  
www.ncfh.org
JOIN THE AG WORKER ACCESS 2020 CAMPAIGN

Community Health Centers serve approximately 20% of the estimated 4.5 million Ag Workers in the U.S. Our goal: To serve not less than 2 million Agricultural Workers and their families by 2020. It can't be done without you!

I CARE ABOUT AMERICA'S AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

NCFH
National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc.
NCFH T/TA Services

Addressing Population Specific Demographics and Identified Needs

Understanding the Population

Culturally Appropriate Health Education

Supporting 51% Consumer Board Requirement
Agricultural Worker Forums and National Conference

East Coast Migrant Stream Forum
North Carolina Community Health Center Association

Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health
National Center for Farmworker Health

Western Forum for Migrant and Community Health
Northwest Regional Primary Care Association

National Conference on Agricultural Worker Health
National Association of Community Health Centers
Bureau of Primary Health Care

Find a Health Center

Health Centers provide high quality preventive and primary health care, even if you have no insurance. Search for locations near you >>

Program Opportunities

Funding opportunities for BPHC program participants, information to support Health Center Program look-alikes, and information about joining the Health Center Program.

News & Announcements

HRSA announces $63 million in ACA funding to expand quality improvement (08/25/2015)

HHS announces additional $169 million in ACA funding for health centers (08/11/2015)

FY 2016 Substance Abuse Service Expansion Supplemental Technical Assistance (07/30/2015)

FY 2016 SAC Technical Assistance (06/16/2015)

Health Center Program Requirements

Resources to help current and prospective health centers understand program requirements.

Health Center Quality Improvement

Information on support networks, performance measures, and quality initiatives to support Health Center Program grantees and look-alikes, and access to health center data.
Additional BPHC-Funded NCAs – Special and Vulnerable Populations

• Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
  – http://www.aapcho.org

• Corporation for Supportive Housing
  – http://www.csh.org

• Equitable Care for Elders – Harvard University School of Dental Medicine
  – https://ece.hsdm.harvard.edu

• National Center for Health in Public Housing
  – https://nchph.org

• National Health Care for the Homeless Council
  – http://www.nhchc.org

• National LGBT Health Education Center
  – http://www.lgbthealtheducation.org

• National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
  – http://www.nurseledcare.org

• School-Based Health Alliance
  – http://www.sbh4all.org
Additional BPHC-Funded NCAs – Capacity Development

• Association of Clinicians of the Underserved
  – [http://www.clinicians.org](http://www.clinicians.org)

• Capital Link
  – [http://www.caplink.org](http://www.caplink.org)

• Community Health Center, Inc.
  – [http://www.weitzmaninstitute.org](http://www.weitzmaninstitute.org)

• Health Information Technology Training and Technical Assistance Center (HITEQ)
  – [http://www.hiteqcenter.org](http://www.hiteqcenter.org)

• National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership

• National Network for Oral Health Access
  – [http://www.nnoha.org](http://www.nnoha.org)
Thank you!

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