AgWorker Health 102: Supporting Agricultural Worker Health

Presented by Farmworker Health Network

Photo: www.earldotter.com
Farmworker Health Network

The Farmworker Health Network works cooperatively with HRSA to provide training and technical assistance to over a thousand Community & Migrant Health Centers throughout the U.S.
Workshop Components

- Overview of agricultural worker health and safety concerns
- Service delivery innovations
- Resources for health centers to address issues for agricultural workers.
To understand the challenges faced by agricultural workers living and working in our nation today, it is important to understand where this system of labor came from and what efforts have been made over the years to insure their access to healthcare services.
Events leading up to MH Program

1850’s
Advances in crop production, machinery, transportation and refrigeration, increase the demand for a migratory seasonal labor force

1917 – 1921
World War I and the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1917

1930 – 1936
Dust Bowl and start of domestic migration

1937
Farm Security Administration is established

1942: “Bracero Treaty”
Recruitment & employment of Mexican citizens during WWII

1950’s
Public Health Service establishes the Migrant Health Unit
1960
• Edward R. Murrow’s documentary, “Harvest of Shame” aired on Thanksgiving Day

1962
• The Migrant Health Act signed into law by President John F. Kennedy

1970
• Reauthorization of Migrant Health Act created the National Advisory Council on Migrant Health and added seasonal workers
Timeline of Legislative Action

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

1962

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

1983

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

1996

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

1992

**Field Sanitation Standard**
Requires agricultural employers to provide potable water, toilets and handwashing facilities in the fields

1987

**ARRA**
Stimulus legislation provides for $2 Billion for the CHC Program (25% for services, 75% for construction, renovation and HIT).

2009

**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.

2010

**ACA fully implemented**

2014

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

1975

**ACA**
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.

2014
Physical Health

The health issues that face migrant and other mobile underserved populations are similar to those faced by the general population but are often magnified or compounded by their migratory lifestyle, living conditions, and occupation.
Management of Health Concerns

- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Cancer
- HIV/AIDS
- Tuberculosis
- Asthma
COVID-19 and Farmworkers

Farmwork is considered “essential”

Lack of information about COVID-19 in farmworker communities

Difficult to follow CDC recommendations of social distancing and handwashing
- Access to handwashing stations in the fields
- Access to clean water and soap in the homes
- Overcrowding with many people in small spaces
- Transportation to and from the fields and into town (esp. for H-2A workers)

Challenges related to working and living conditions
- Fear of accessing health care/taking sick leave due to employer retaliation
- Access to testing and treatment (esp. since many lack health insurance)
- Ability to isolate if exposed to or infected by COVID-19

Access to testing and vaccines
Contributing Factors to Mental Health Challenges

• Separation from families
• Isolation
• Discrimination
• Fear due to immigration status
• COVID-19
Illnesses Related to Substandard Housing

- Gastrointestinal diseases
- Infectious diseases
- Intestinal parasites
- Conjunctivitis
- Lead poisoning
Work-Related Health Risks

- Pesticide Exposure
- Musculoskeletal injuries
- Heat stress
- Farm equipment
- Transportation to and from work
- Lacerations from sharp equipment and hand tools
- Slips, trips, and falls
- Eye injuries
- Insect/rodent/snake bites
Farmworker Exceptionalism

- Fair Labor Standards Act left out farmworkers
  - Child labor protections
  - Overtime
- Workers' compensation & minimum wage
- Few OSHA standards to protect farmworkers
  - Field Sanitation Standard, 1987
  - Only applies to farms with 11 workers or housing
Occupational Safety and Health Protections

• Field Sanitation Standard (OSHA) – 1987
  – Requires potable drinking water, toilets and handwashing facilities, and information on good hygiene practices
  – See Clinician’s Guide to Field Sanitation Standard

• Worker Protection Standard (EPA) – promulgated in 1992, updated in 2015
  – Requires employers to comply with minimum safety precautions when using pesticides on farms, and in nurseries, greenhouses, and forests
  – See Clinician’s Guide to Worker Protection Standard

• California Wildfire Standard
## Labor and Health Protections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act – 1983</th>
<th>Workers’ Compensation</th>
<th>Affordable Care Act – 2010</th>
<th>COVID-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Provides basic labor protections for workers who work under labor contractors | • Agricultural worker coverage varies by state. Only 12 states (and DC, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico) require full workers’ compensation coverage for agricultural workers. In all other states, coverage is either limited or optional. **See Guide to Workers’ Compensation for Clinicians Serving Agricultural Workers** | • 18% of workers were offered employer-provided health insurance *  
• 47% of workers have health insurance *  
• 44% of workers reported that a member of their household received Medicaid * | • State level protections.  
• No federal standard |

Workshop Components

• Overview of agricultural worker health and safety concerns
• Service delivery innovations
• Resources for health centers to address issues for agricultural workers.
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 often 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
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
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
Workshop Components

• Overview of agricultural worker health and safety concerns
• Service delivery innovations
• Resources for health centers to address issues for agricultural workers.
Farmworker Health Network
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

• COVID-19
  – Issue briefs, outreach materials for agricultural workers

• Occupational and Environmental Health
  – Heat stress, pesticides, emergency preparedness

• Access to Health Care

• Medical-Legal Partnerships

• AgWorker Health Issues
  – Diabetes, skin cancer, sexual harassment/violence

www.farmworkerjustice.org/resource/
WE SUPPORT HEALTH OUTREACH PROGRAMS by providing training, consultation, and timely resources.

OUR MISSION IS TO BUILD STRONG, EFFECTIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTH OUTREACH MODELS by partnering with local community-based organizations across the country in order to improve the quality of life of low-income, vulnerable and underserved populations.

WE SERVE Community Health Centers, Primary Care Associations, and Safety-net Health Organizations
What we do

Services

• Consultation
  – Outreach program planning and assessments

• Training
  – Outreach & Enrollment
  – Outreach-Centered Health Education
  – Structural Competency

• Conference workshops

• Outreach resources

Resources

• Tools
  – Outreach Starter Kit

• Frameworks
  – Health Equity Starter Kit

• Reports

• Resource networks
Additional Resources
WWW.OUTREACH-PARTNERS.ORG/RESOURCES/

- Community Partnerships
  - Collaboration Toolkit
  - Building Community Partnerships Webinar

- Value-Based Care
  - Value-Based Care Primer
  - Outreach & Value-Based Care

- Coming Soon!
  - Organizational Self-Care
MHP Salud has over 35 years of experience with the CHW profession. There are 2 ‘arms’ of our services:

1) **CHW Programs** - MHP Salud implements CHW-led, culturally appropriate, programming on a variety of health and social topic areas—nutrition and physical activity; diabetes management; older adult health; application assistance for safety-net programs.

2) **Training & Technical Assistance** - MHP Salud possesses experience in providing training and technical assistance nationally to FQHCs and other organizations looking to build or enhance CHW programs.
MHP Salud T/TA Services

- Trainings for CHWs, Program Supervisors and Professions Working with CHWs
- Technical Assistance/Consulting on design, evaluation, and optimization to support the various stages of the implementation process of a CHW program
- Resources and virtual technical assistance
MHP Salud Available Resources

mhpsalud.org

Resources and Reference Materials for Community Health Worker Programs

As the Community Health Worker profession grows, part of our mission is to ensure that Community Health Workers and the organizations that employ them across the world have access to high-quality educational resources. Our resource portfolio contains resources that are suitable for a wide range of purposes and are categorized by health topic or area of focus. Although MHP Salud’s own CHW programs focus on providing support for Latino communities, our resources can be applied to CHW programs or interventions targeting any population. The materials in our resource portfolio are kept up-to-date and are reviewed on an annual basis for accuracy. New materials are published on a regular basis, and all materials are available for download after a quick (and free) user registration.
Our mission is to create practical solutions at the intersection of vulnerability, migration, and health.

We envision a world based on health justice and equity, where migration is never an impediment to well-being.
Our Work

- Worker Health and Safety
- Bridge Case Management
- Research
- Education
- Resource Development
- Peer Networking
- Advocacy
- Psychosocial Support for Providers

Our Impact

- 3,478 webinar attendees
- 25,045 times HN contacted clinics & patients
- 1,215 registrants for safety webinars
- 3,500 registrants seeking psychosocial support
- 94,192 TA encounters

A force for health justice
Somos una fuerza dedicada a la justicia en salud
Connect with MCN!

Access our latest resources

Get updates from the field

Attend our virtual trainings

and a lot more at

www.migrantclinician.org

@tweetMCN  |  @migrantclinician  |  @migrantcliniciansnetwork
The National Center for Farmworker Health is a private, not-for-profit corporation located in Buda, Texas, whose mission is "To improve the health of farmworker families."

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
Understanding the Population

Culturally Appropriate Health Education

Supporting 51% Consumer Board Requirement
NCFH Additional Resources

• COVID webpage
• Diabetes Resource Hub
• Mental Health Hub
• Call For Health
• Ag Worker Access Campaign
• Learning Collaboratives

Sign up to our newsletters to stay informed and connect with our social media platforms!

© NCFH 2021
America’s Voice for Community Health Care

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) was founded in 1971 to promote efficient, high quality, comprehensive health care that is accessible, culturally and linguistically competent, community directed, and patient centered for all.
Established in 1971, NACHC is the leading national advocacy organization in support of community-based health centers and the expansion of health care access for the medically underserved and uninsured.

NACHC represents the nation’s network of almost 1,400 federally funded Health Centers with over 14,000 delivery sites located in all of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam* serving almost 30 million people.

*SOURCE: 2019 UDS REPORT
WHAT WE DO

- Provide training, leadership development and technical assistance to health center Boards and staff to support and strengthen health center governance and operations.

- Work closely with chartered State/Regional Primary Care Associations (PCAs) and Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCNs) to fulfill a shared mission and support the growth and development of community-based health center programs.

- Conduct research and analysis that informs both the public and private sectors about the work of health centers, their value to America’s health care system and the overall health of the nation’s people and communities – both in terms of costs and health care outcomes.

- Develop alliances and partnerships with the public and private sectors to build stronger, healthier communities and bring additional resources to, and investment in, community health centers.
NACHC’s home page, www.nachc.org, includes information about trainings & events, research & data, COVID-19 resources, search by focus area and so much more!

- Link to the Health Center Resource Clearinghouse
  https://www.healthcenterinfo.org/

- Link to find other health centers across the country
  https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/

- Noddlepod for COVID-19 Information
  - Information on promising practices, protocols, templates, policy updates, funding opportunities, etc.
  - Organized by topic with a Table of Content
  - To join the noddlepod community, submit request via email to Susan Hansen shansen@nachc.org
BPHC-Funded NTTAPs
Special and Vulnerable Populations

National LGBT Health Education Center
www.lgbthealtheducation.org

Corporation for Supportive Housing
www.csh.org

Equitable Care for Elders
Harvard University
School of Dental Medicine
ece.hsdm.harvard.edu

National Health Care for the Homeless Council
www.nhchc.org

School-Based Health Alliance
www.sbh4all.org

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
www.aapcho.org

National Center for Health in Public Housing
www.nchph.org

National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
www.nurseledcare.org
BPHC-Funded NTTAPs
Capacity Development

Association of Clinicians of the Underserved
http://www.clinicians.org

Capital Link
www.caplink.org

Health Information Technology Training and Technical Assistance Center (HITEQ)
www.hiteqcenter.org

National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership
www.medical-legalpartnership.org

National Network for Oral Health Access
www.nnoha.org

Futures Without Violence
www.futureswithoutviolence.org

Community Health Center, Inc.
www.weitzmaninstitute.org
Health Center Resource Clearinghouse

www.healthcenterinfo.org
Introduction

This resource brief provides a selection of current, high-quality resources about Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

These resources provide preparedness information for primary care providers, as well as answers to frequently asked questions. These resources also address the needs of special populations that can be vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19, including unhoused populations and the elderly.

About the Issue

Due to the rapid global spread of the virus, the COVID-19 outbreak has been classified as a pandemic by the World Health Organization and a national emergency by the White House.

Health centers play a vital role in the national response to the COVID-19 virus, in part by making patients aware of COVID-19 preventive measures and determining if patients need COVID-19 testing. Health centers also coordinate with state and local health departments as part of emergency management planning. And by continuing to provide primary care to their patients, health centers can also relieve congestion in hospital emergency rooms that may become crowded with patients seeking care for COVID-19 infections.

Highlighted Resources from the Clearinghouse

- Emergency Management and Operations
- Telehealth
- Governance
- Special and Vulnerable Populations
Partner COVID-19 Resources

Many of our NCA partners have developed online resources about COVID-19 or released statements about their response to the pandemic. Click on an organization name below to see resources, blog posts and statements on the outbreak.

- Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
- Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU)'s Star Center
- Capital Link
- Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC, Inc.)
- Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
- Farmworker Justice (FJ)
- Health Information Technology Training and Technical Assistance Center (HITEQ)
- Health Outreach Partners (HOP)
- MHP Salud
- Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN)
- National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)
- National Center for Equitable Care for Elders (NCECE)
- National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH)
- National Center for Health in Public Housing (NCHPH)
- National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership (NCMLP)
- National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC)
- National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA)
- National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC)
- School-Based Health Alliance
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

Funding Announcements

- HHS Awards Nearly $5 Million to Poison Control Centers as calls spike due to COVID-19  
  April 23, 2020
- HHS Awards Nearly $165 Million to Combat the  
  COVID-19 Pandemic in Rural Communities  
  April 22, 2020
- HHS Awards $90 Million to Ryan White HIV/AIDS  
  Program Recipients for COVID-19 Response  
  April 15, 2020
- HHS Awards $1.3 Billion to Health Centers in  
  Historic U.S. Response to COVID-19  
  April 8, 2020
- HHS Awards $100 Million to Health Centers for  
  COVID-19 Response  
  March 24, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

We understand the critical role you play in improving health care to people who are geographically isolated and economically or medically vulnerable—at this time more than ever. We compiled a list of answers to address some of your questions and concerns for our programs:

- A Message from the HRSA Administrator
- COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement to Health Care Providers and Facilities for Testing and Treatment of the Uninsured
FHN Member Representatives:

Colleen Reinert – MHP Salud
creinert@mhpsalud.org

Beleny Reese – Health Outreach Partners (HOP)
beleny@outreach-partners.org

Theressa Lyons-Clampitt – Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN)
tlyons@migrantclinician.org

Gladys Carrillo – National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH)
carrillo@ncfh.org

Gina Capra - National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)
gcapra@nachc.com

Alexis Guild – Farmworker Justice
aguild@farmworkerjustice.org
We value your feedback. Please complete this post-webinar survey.

Survey link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JTYS775