

NCFH National Pulse

Keeping a pulse on the health of farmworkers in the U.S.

Quarter 2: January, February, March 2024

The purpose of the quarterly editions of the National Pulse is to systematically collect and share current and emerging health issues among farmworkers in the U.S. The National Pulse includes findings from network surveys, insights from recent data collection efforts with farmworkers if available, and a summary of recent research and media articles published.

Findings from Network Survey

The poll this quarter explored emergency preparedness among farmworker communities and farmworker-serving organizations. Assessing emergency preparedness is important because public health emergencies and climate emergencies are on the rise. Respondents to this poll include mostly staff of non-profit community-based organizations and health centers across California, North Carolina, Texas, Michigan, New Mexico, South Carolina, Oregon, Louisiana, Montana, Florida, Connecticut, Washington, New York, and other states.

Among all participants (n=27), 81.5% work directly with farmworkers, and extreme heat was reported by 24 of the respondents (88.9%) as being by far the most frequent emergency disaster in their respective communities. Among 21 of the respondents, over half reported providing trainings or information to farmworkers on how to report emergencies (61.9%) and who to contact in case of an emergency (66.7%), the second most reported being flooding (59.3%). More than half of all respondents use social media, texting, and direct face-to-face communication respectively to relay warnings and alerts about public health emergencies or natural disasters in real time to their farmworker community. Barriers to evacuation most reported by respondents include having nowhere to go, lack of transportation, and lack of trust in public officials.

When asked what respondents need to improve emergency preparedness for farmworkers in their communities, they said more collaboration within the community and mandatory emergency preparedness trainings and resources in farmworkers' native languages would be helpful. They also cited more education efforts for local public officials on barriers faced by farmworker families during emergencies as an important need.

Media Articles

[CDC to doctors: Look out for bird flu infections among dairy farm workers](#)
STAT news, April 5, 2024

[CDC Issues Health Alert for Bird Flu Infection in US](#)
U.S. News, April 5, 2024



[A person in Texas caught bird flu after exposure to cows that were thought to be ill](#)
NPR, WFSU, April 1, 2024

[North Carolina Labor Chief Rejects Infectious Disease Rules for Workplaces](#)
Insurance Journal, March 19, 2024

[Community and Labor Center's New Study Highlights Farmworkers' Health Challenges](#)
UC Merced, February 3, 2024

[Valley fever, historically found only in the Southwest, is spreading. It can have devastating consequences.](#)
NBC News, January 30, 2024

[Ban of local heat protections for outdoor workers could create a 'public health crisis'](#)
NPR WUSF, April 12, 2024

[Colorado Moves to Connect Agricultural Workers With Mental Health Resources](#)
KFF News, February 7, 2024

[Kona migrant farmworkers gain better healthcare due to students' research](#)
University of Hawaii News, February 1, 2024

[Bird flu that infected Texas farm worker HAS mutated to spread more easily, CDC reveals - as three pet CATS die from virus and America's biggest egg producer is hit with outbreak](#)
Daily Mail, April 3, 2024

[Worries about bird flu in U.S. cattle intensify](#)
Science Journal, April 5, 2024

Literature List

[Focus groups revealed how community health workers in North Carolina find, verify, and process health information for migrant and seasonal farmworkers](#)
March 2024

These focus groups of community health workers (CHWs) identified ways that CHWs use literacy skills to transform health content into educational resources for farmworkers. Findings show that additional training in crediting sources, creating new materials, and organization and storage could enhance their health education literacy and communication with farmworkers.

[Cosecha: A Statewide Promotor de Salud Network to Attain Equity in Accessing COVID-19 Services in Florida's Farmworker Corridor](#)
January 2024

Promotores intervened in Florida with health education trainings for Migrant and Seasonal farmworkers (MSAWs) in order to reduce COVID-19 transmission among MSAW communities, facilitate access to COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, and enhance the *promotores* network across Florida.



["I definitely cannot afford to be feeling poorly if there's no need to be": A qualitative evaluation of antiviral uptake following suspected occupational exposure to avian influenza](#)

February 2024

Fourteen MSAW who were exposed to the Avian flu were interviewed and findings show that these MSAW did not consider themselves at risk while using PPE and because they believed this flu was rare to contract from birds.

[PROGRESO-II: Developing Culturally Tailored Materials for a Social Network-Based Intervention to Promote HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Initiation Among Latina Seasonal Farmworkers](#)

March 2024

Seasonal farmworkers in Florida participated in a study with the objective of developing culturally-sensitive health education materials around human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). The study included focus groups of a total of 16 participants and materials were revised based on their feedback. Findings show participants responded positively and felt comfortable with these materials.

[Covid-19 disease burden, vaccine uptake, and workplace disease prevention efforts in temporary agricultural workers in the US](#)

March 2024

Farmworkers among 5 U.S. states were surveyed in 2022 about COVID-19 testing, vaccination, infection. Findings suggest that H-2A farmworkers had significantly higher COVID-19 vaccine uptake and lower COVID-19 prevalence than non-H-2A farmworkers.