

NCFH National Pulse

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

February 2025 Edition: Seasonal flu vaccine program

NCFH's National Pulse systematically collects and shares current and emerging health issues among farmworkers in the U.S. via rapid polls conducted among farmworker-serving organizations. The results offer clinicians, public health officials, and farmworker-serving organizations insights into emerging trends and health needs in real time, as well as timely recommendations to improve farmworker health.

Visit the [NCFH website](#) to view National Pulse editions from the past three years.

Findings from Network Survey

The [Seasonal Flu Vaccination for Farm Workers program](#), administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, distributed approximately 105,000 seasonal flu vaccines to health departments in 12 states with dairy herds impacted by H5N1 avian influenza. Health departments have been distributing these free vaccines to animal production workers over the past few months in California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Mexico, Ohio, South Dakota and Texas.

NCFH conducted a poll to assess awareness and engagement with this program among farmworker-serving organizations.¹ A total of 31 individuals responded. See data figures below.



Created by Luis Prado from NCFH Project

94%

of respondents work directly with farmworkers



94%

are NCFH funded outreach partners



81%

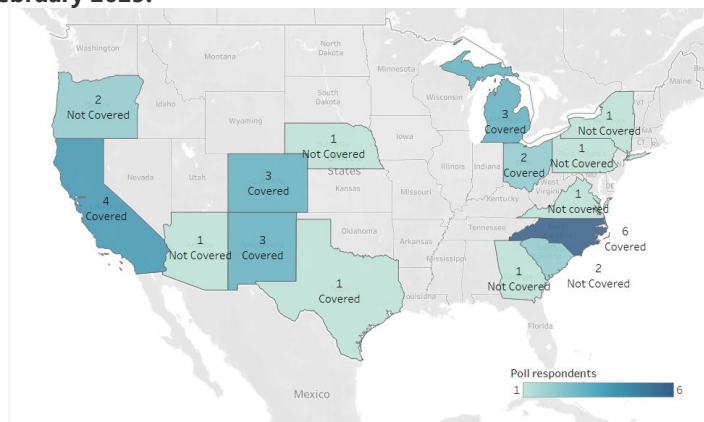
of respondents in covered states are aware of this program



62%

of respondents in covered states are collaborating with a health department to distribute these vaccines

National Pulse poll respondents by state, noting program coverage, February 2025.



States represented by poll respondents include: Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Michigan, Michigan, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.

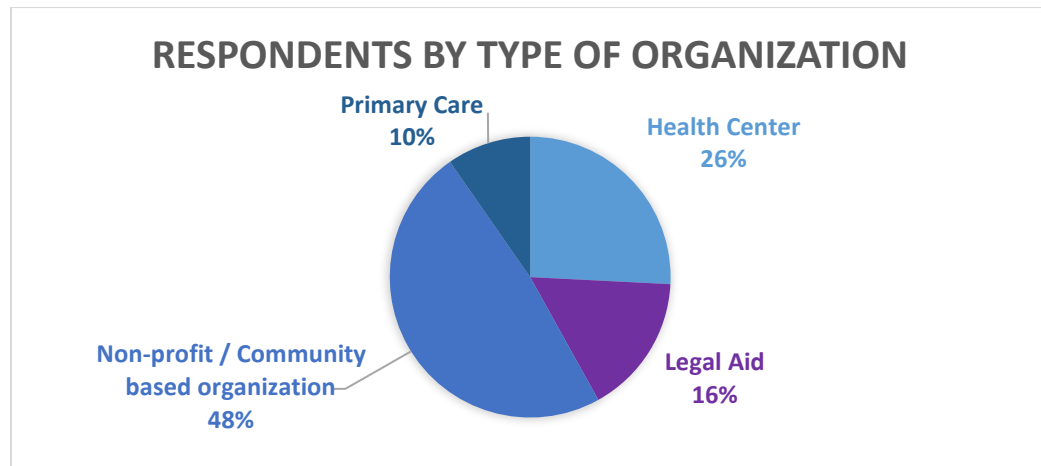
*States are labeled covered and uncovered by the Flu program.

Nearly half (48%) of respondents were employed by a non-profit or community-based organization while 26% worked with a health center.

¹ It may be possible that some respondents confuse the Seasonal Flu Vaccination for Farm Workers Program with other efforts to promote seasonal influenza vaccination among the general population or among the farmworker population

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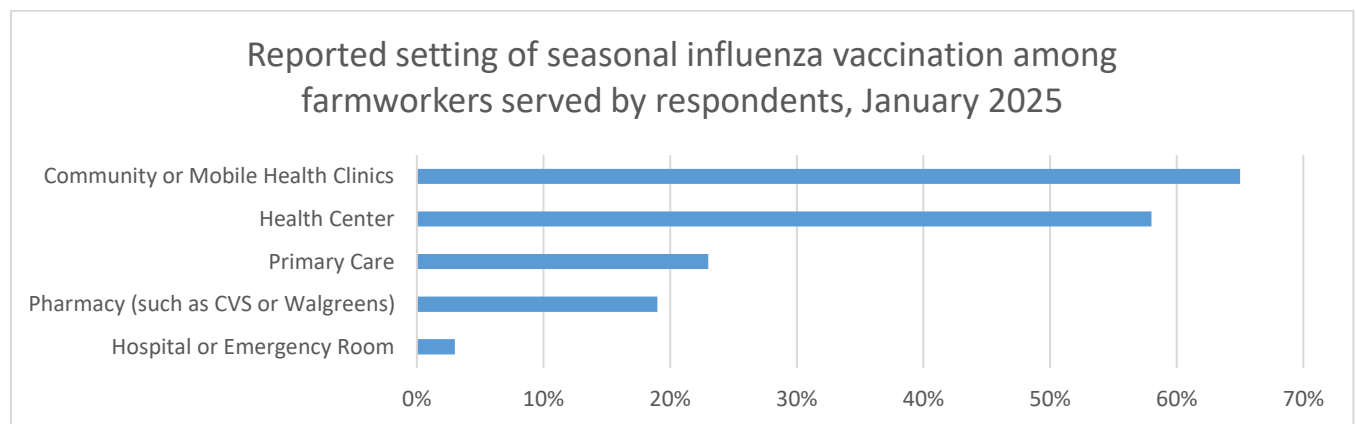
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Findings:

Site data:

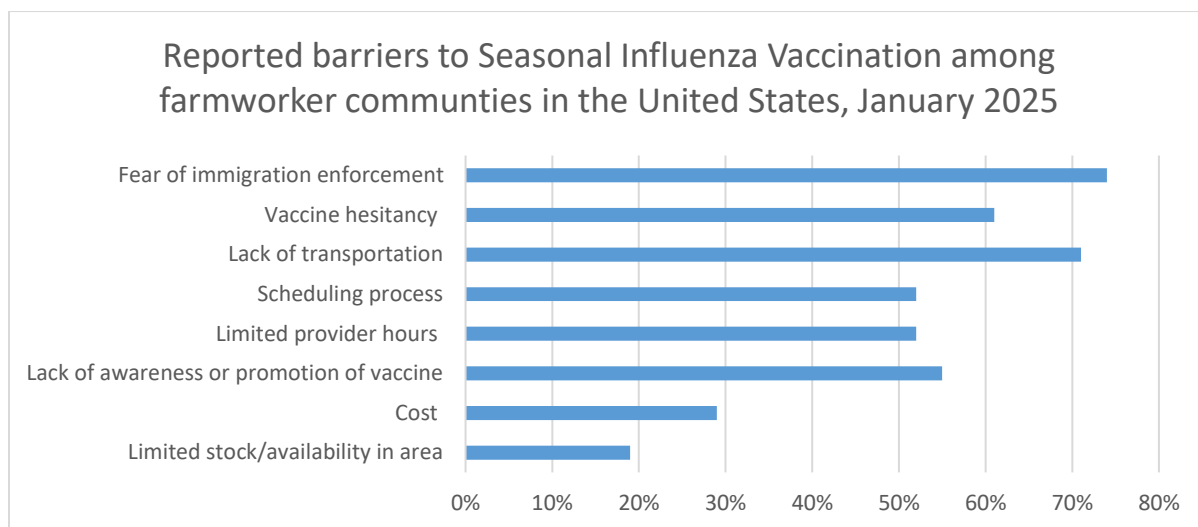
Among the 31 respondents, the majority reported that community health clinics or mobile clinics were the most common setting for farmworkers to access seasonal flu vaccination.



Respondents serving farmworkers reported barriers to seasonal flu vaccination in a rapid poll conducted in January 2025. Immigration enforcement, vaccine hesitancy, and access to transportation were the most commonly reported barriers.

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Barriers with the seasonal flu vaccine program reported by respondents, summarized:

- Fear of enforcement and detention activities has limited farmworker health-seeking behavior. Farmworkers are afraid of being reported and detained at this time, which keeps them from leaving the house.
- Lack of transportation, language access, and availability during business hours limit farmworkers' ability to access healthcare. The program isn't adequately promoted and isn't available in every county in participating states.
- Employers are hesitant to engage, complicating efforts to identify and access eligible populations. Health departments struggle to obtain employer permission to conduct onsite health outreach, and workers may be hesitant to disclose their occupation due to stigma or work contracts
- Lack of awareness, coordination, and vaccine supply among community providers: Some respondents report lack of vaccines available at FQHCs. Other respondents were not aware that vaccines were available, or that health departments were distributing them to animal production workers.

"Hog workers on most farms must sign a non-disclosure agreement. This is a right-to-work state, and they are afraid to admit they work with live animals. It's easier with poultry, but only if the workers live close to the poultry houses and are easy to identify."

Respiratory disease outbreak data:



0%

of respondents are reported H5N1 outbreaks in their farmworker community

