



# Introduction to Migrant Health

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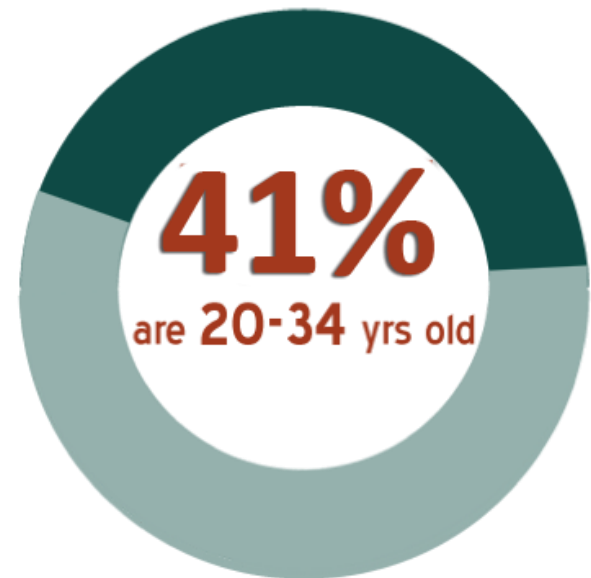
**Director of Occupational and**

**Environmental Health, Farmworker Justice**



# Farmworker Demographics<sup>1</sup>

**2.5 million (approx. 4 million including families)<sup>2,3</sup>**



1. National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS) 2011 - 2013.

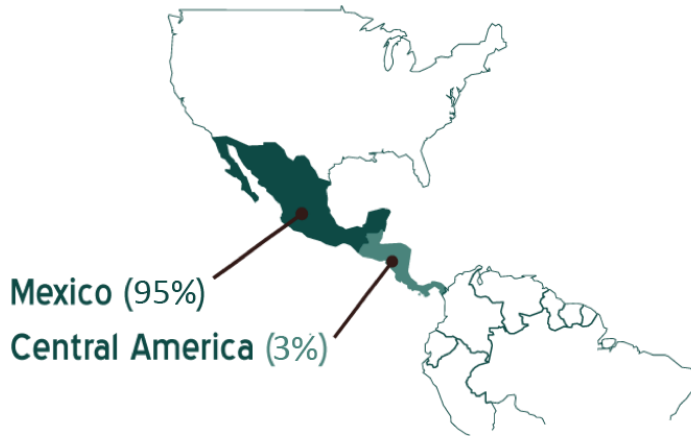
2. Kandel W. *Profile of Hired Farmworkers, A 2008 Update*. Economic Research Service, US Department of Agriculture; Washington, DC; 2008. Economic Research Report No. 60.

\* Note: Kandel uses a combination of NAWS and others data.

3. Martin P. Immigration reform: implications for agriculture University of California, Giannini Foundation. *Agricultural and Resource Economics Update*. 2006;9(4).

# Farmworker Demographics<sup>1</sup>

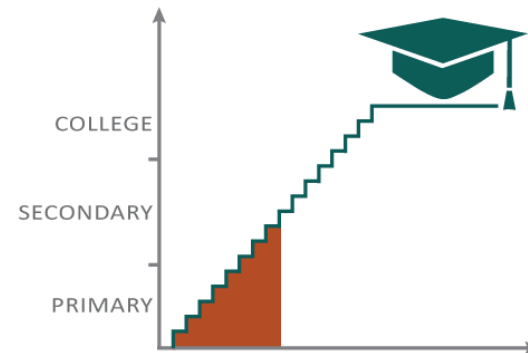
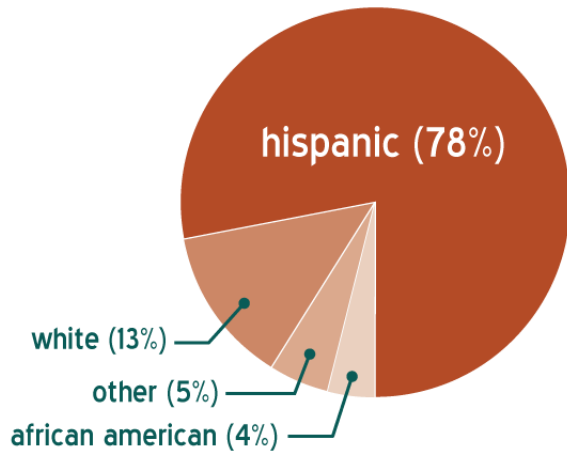
**71% foreign born**



**Spanish**

dominant language

*Estimated 4% of farmworkers speak an indigenous language as their primary language<sup>4</sup>*



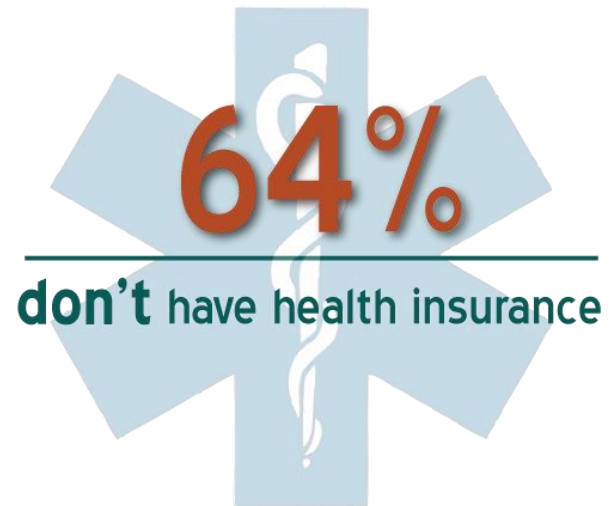
Foreign born workers, on average, have a **8th grade education**

4. Gabbard, Susan, Ed Kissam, James Glasnapp, Jorge Nakamoto, Russell Saltz, & Daniel Carroll, "Identifying Indigenous Mexican and Central American Immigrants in Survey Research".

# Farmworker Demographics<sup>1</sup>

Average total individual income is **\$15,000 - \$17,499**

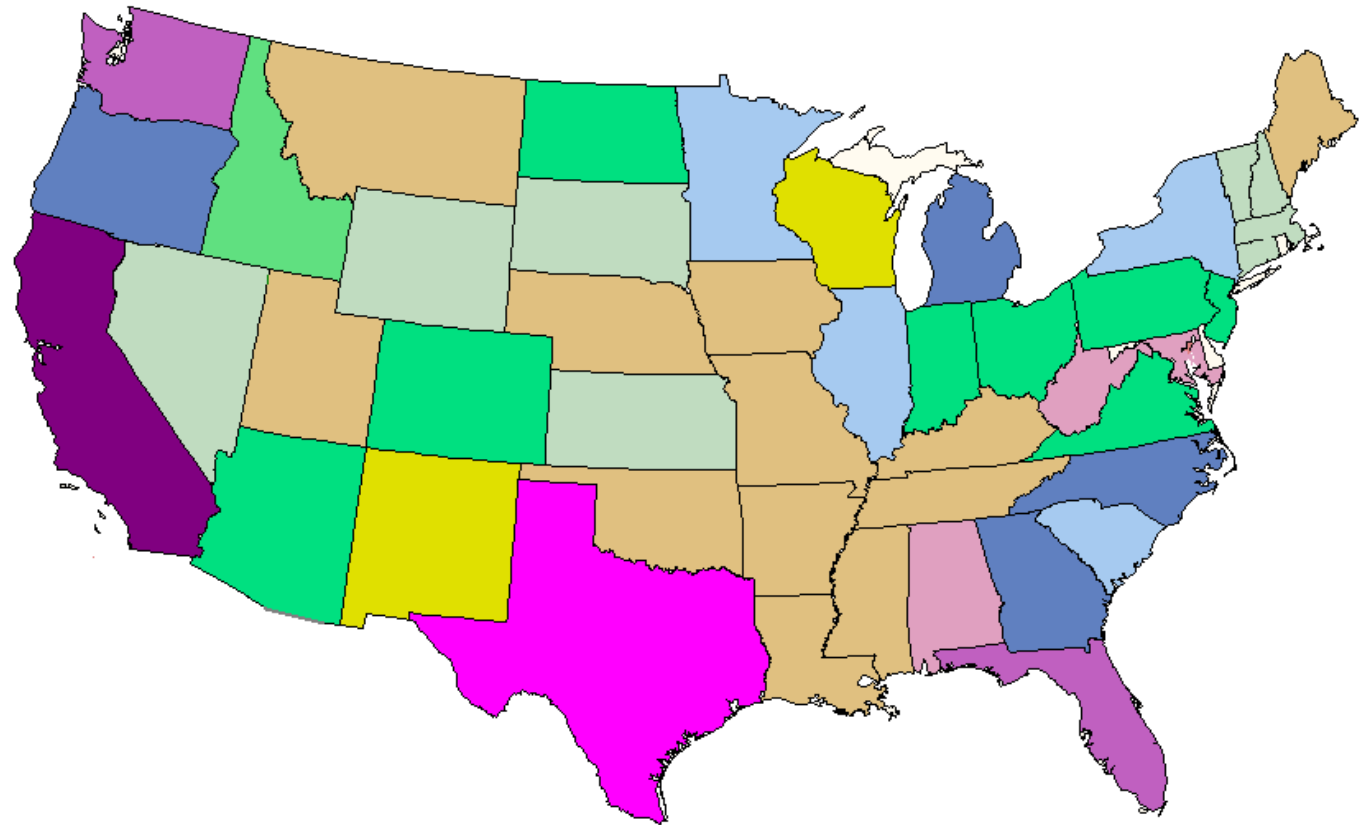
**25%** of all farmworkers have a family income below the federal poverty level



**39%** had no healthcare visit in last 2 years

# Migrant & Seasonal Farmworkers by State

0-5,000
5,001-10,000
10,001- 20,000
20,001-30,000
30,001-50,000
50,001-100,000
100,001-200,000
200,001-300,000
300,001-500,000
1,300,000





# Types of Farmworker Housing



# Issues Associated with Farmworker Housing

- Instability (especially for migrant workers)
- Affordability
- Overcrowding
- Lack of privacy
- Inadequate facilities (including showers, toilets, laundry, kitchen)

# Farmworker Health Overview

- Agriculture is one of the most hazardous occupations in the United States<sup>1</sup>
- In 2013, 487 farmworkers died of work-related injuries<sup>2</sup>
- About 20% of farmworkers and their families went to a C/MHC in 2013<sup>3</sup>

1. CDC, NIOSH, Workplace and Safety Health Topics: Agricultural Safety, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/aginjury/>

2. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/foi/cftb0277.pdf>

3. HRSA UDS data: <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/uds/datacenter.aspx?year=2013>



# 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



Photo by Farmworker Justice

*Each crop has its own risk profile*

# Work-Related Health Risks



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



Photos by Farmworker Justice



# Chronic Conditions

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



Photo by Farmworker Justice



# Mental Health

- Anxiety
  - Stress
  - Depression
  - Substance abuse
  - Domestic violence
- Contributing factors:
- Separation from families
  - Isolation
  - Discrimination
  - Fear due to immigration status

**According to 2009-2010 NAWS data, 10% of farmworkers surveyed had depressive symptoms**

# 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**

Photo © Earl Dotter

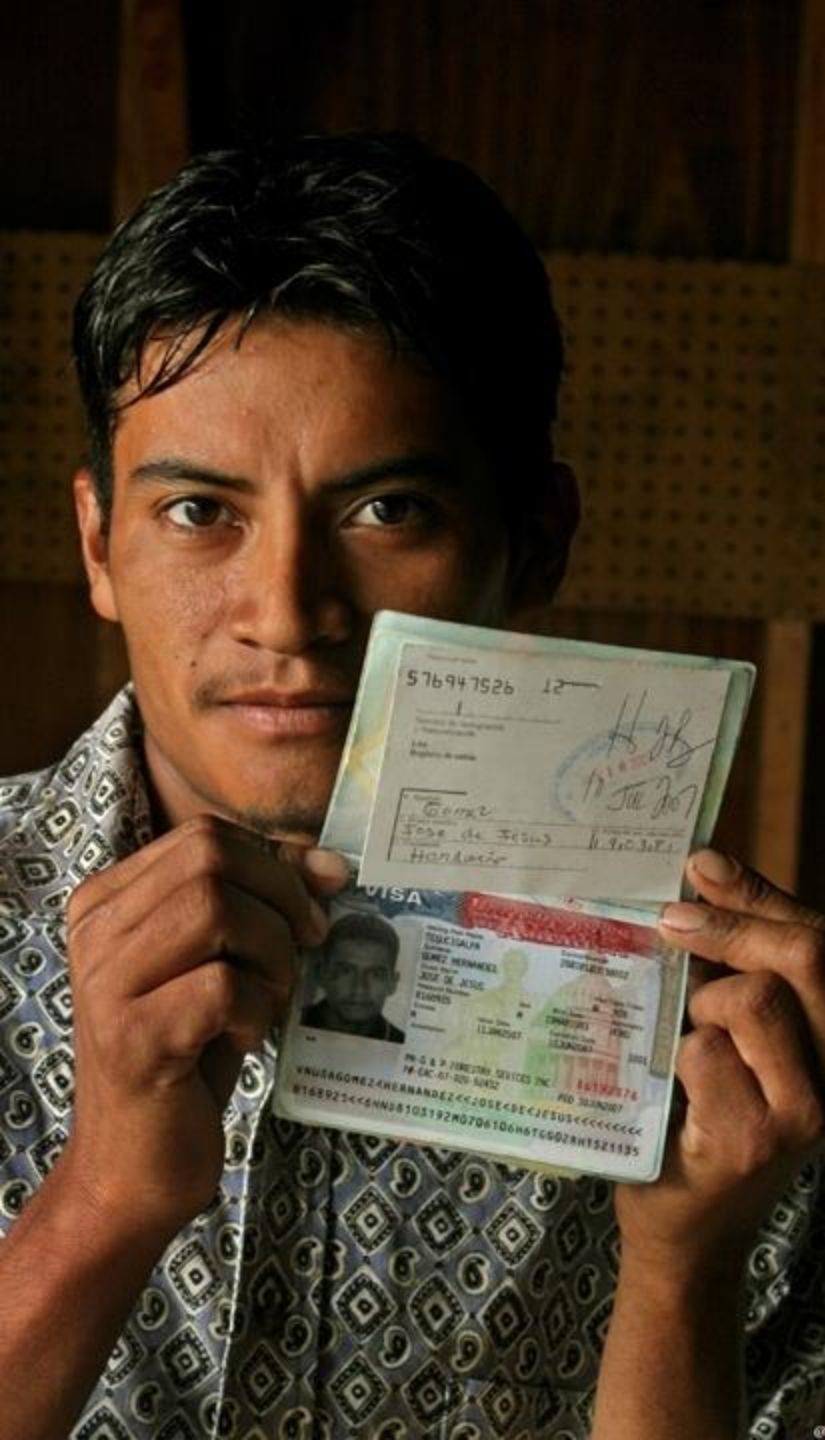


# Barriers to Care and Healthy Lifestyles

- **Poverty**, with 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





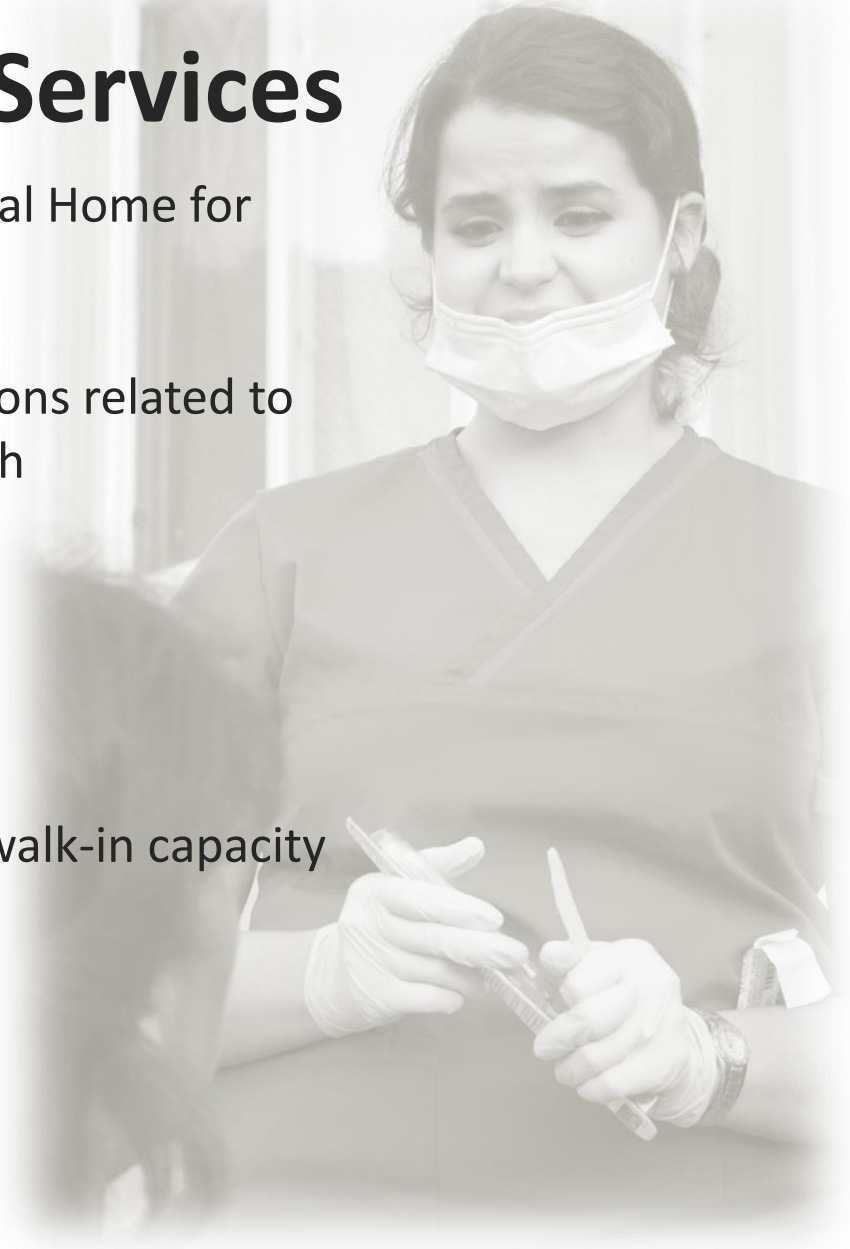
# Barriers to Care and Healthy Lifestyles

- **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 US health systems**



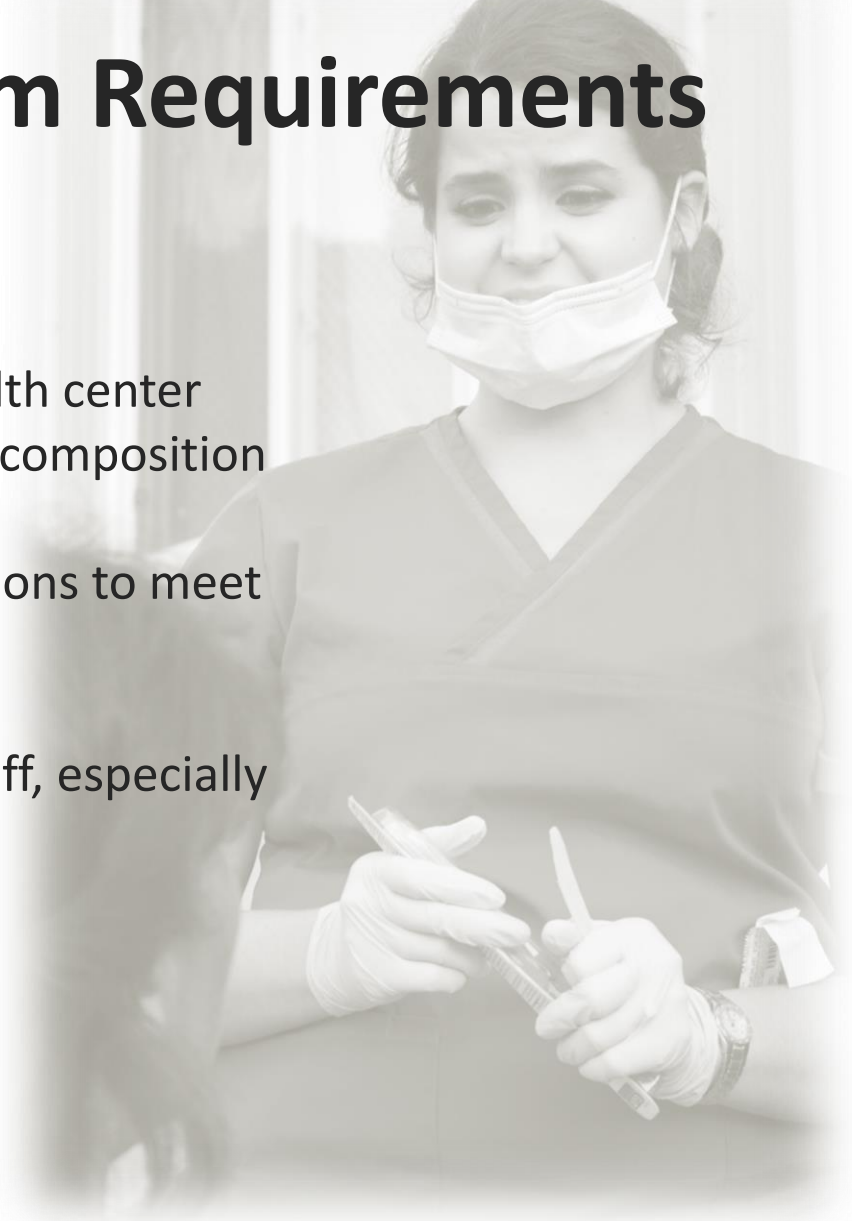
# Challenges for Migrant Health Centers – Delivery of Services

- Establishing a Patient-Centered Medical Home for farmworkers
- Understanding and diagnosing conditions related to occupational and environmental health
- Health literacy
- Cultural competency
- Realistic appointment schedules and walk-in capacity
- Access to medicine and specialists
- Reimbursement for services
- Outreach to farmworker communities



# Challenges for Migrant Health Centers – Meeting the Program Requirements

- Sliding fee discount schedule
- Recruiting farmworkers to serve on health center board to ensure patient majority board composition
- Accessible hours of operation and locations to meet the needs of farmworker communities
- Staffing – recruiting and maintaining staff, especially bilingual Spanish/English staff



# The Farmworker Health Network (FHN)



- Farmworker Justice  
[www.farmworkerjustice.org](http://www.farmworkerjustice.org)



- Health Outreach Partners  
[www.outreach-partners.org](http://www.outreach-partners.org)



- Migrant Clinicians Network  
[www.migrantclinician.org](http://www.migrantclinician.org)



- MHP Salud  
[www.mhpsalud.org](http://www.mhpsalud.org)



- National Association of Community Health Centers  
[www.nachc.com](http://www.nachc.com)



- National Center for Farmworker Health  
[www.ncfh.org](http://www.ncfh.org)

# For more information...

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