COVID-19

FARMWORKER STUDY

covid19farmworkerstudy.org
COFS IN CALIFORNIA:
Two Phase Study & Data Briefs

May 2020 - July 2020
N = 900

PHASE 1: SURVEYS
DESIGN: CIRS/CBOs
DATA COLLECTION: CBOs

July 2020

FOCUS GROUP 1:
Researchers host CBO Survey team, summarize survey findings

Aug 2020 - Oct 2020
N = 84-120

PHASE 2: In-Depth INTERVIEWS
DESIGN: CIRS/CBOs
DATA COLLECTION: CBOs

Dec 2020

FOCUS GROUP 2:
Researchers host CBO interviewers, summarize qualitative learnings

Data for Action
- Preliminary Data Brief (July)
- Survey Methods Brief (August)
- Workplace & Transportation Brief (Sep)
- Household Conditions Brief (Sep)
- Healthcare Access Brief (Sep)
- Economic Issues Brief (Oct)
- Phase Two Data on Social, Economic and Mental Health Effects of COVID-19 on Farmworkers available early 2021

May 2020 - July 2020

N = 900

Aug 2020 - Oct 2020

N = 84-120
Agriculture Leads as a Dangerous Occupation
THE PANDEMIC INCREASES THE RISK & DANGER

TODAY: COVID19 Pandemic increases the danger
As of July 31, 2020, Monterey County Agricultural Workers are 2x more likely to become infected with the COVID-19 virus than workers in all Non-Agricultural Industries.
California Survey Completed 7/21/2020: 915 Surveys

California Partners:

- Lideres Campesinas
- Centro Binacional
- Central CA Environmental Justice Network
- Alianza Ecologista

Partners:

- Farmworker Care Coalition
- UC Davis Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety
- CAFF (Community Alliance with Family Farmers)
- CCEJN (Center for Consumer Environmental Jurisprudence)
- Alianza Ecologista
- CA Estate
- California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
- Comite Civico del Valle

Map of California indicating regions with survey numbers.
Preliminary Qualitative Data Align with Survey Results and Recommendations

- Expand healthcare access and coverage, regardless of status
- Create multilingual, non-academic, culturally appropriate information
- Expand income and safety net support, regardless of status
- Involve trusted CBOs to design & implement programs and support
- Ease barriers for farmworkers to report COVID-19 related complaints
- Simplify access to support services
California Interviews In Process

Goal #1: 84-120 in-depth interviews by Oct. 17

Goal #2: Analysis and preliminary report by Thanksgiving
Our boss, when I told him I was sick and needed 14 days off, he told me I could take 3. This was after I had already tested positive. If I felt OK, I had to come back to work. If I stayed home, he wouldn't give me a salary or anything. I told him, I feel the symptoms...the doctor told me I have to quarantine for 14 days. My boss said, you like fine, just let your coworkers know and go back to work. At home, I tried to quarantine, but at work, I had to tell my coworkers that I had the coronavirus. That’s what he told me. But when I told them, I looked OK, I didn’t have a fever, but I couldn’t breath, I was weak...and I kept working. Many other compañeros had symptoms, and kept quiet. One had it at least from July 10th...he’s still in a coma. Le dio fuerte la enfermedad. I usually work with one other person, to tend to the calves.
The test was terrible...at Kaiser, they looked at my throat, and then did my nose, and then in the other nose. It gave me a headache, watery eyes. I waited seven days for the results. For our youngest daughter, she waited 15 days… I found out my results through the Kaiser ap on my phone at 5 in the morning. All it said was “positive.”

No one contacted me. No one at work either. It would have been buenísima if they’d done it to let people know....so they can avoid infecting one another.
It’s changed our lives totally. I try to hang out with my daughters, but sometimes being together all the time makes us more stressed. We can’t go to parks, we can’t go for walks … We might try hiking or fishing… The river where we used to go is packed with people all the time, we go and we see and we turn around. Hiking, too is also full of people … In the family, we used to get together a few times a month, to have an *asada*, to play *loteria*, and now we never see each other … We talk by phone, and we say when all of this passes, we’ll get together. One thing is because I got sick, I think this made my family members scared, and there are a lot of elders in our family.
Diagnosing the Structure (Cartwright and Manderson 2011)

- Improve testing process and results turnaround, follow-up contact and care.
- Need consistency from contact tracing teams at county levels.
- Heighten pressure on employers to comply, whether they believe in COVID or not.
- Clear educational messaging for Latinos and everyone else.
- Support for family and community caregivers.
- Improve safety and access to already limited green space.
- Plan to sustain aid and support for the long-haul--these values should be our new normal.
Q&A

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