

The Farmworker Health and Safety Institute

The Farmworker Health and Safety Institute (FHSI or Institute) is a unique consortium of three community-based farmworker organizations that works with farmworkers along the Eastern Migrant Stream and the U.S.-Mexico Border. The member groups include El Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas (CATA), the Farmworker Association of Florida (FWAF), and the Border Agricultural Workers Project (BAWP). A focus of the Institute's training programs has been to provide technical assistance and leadership development to farmworkers through their organizations so that they can better protect themselves from pesticide exposure.

Health Care Provider Training

To adequately address the complicated health needs of farmworkers, who are a medically underserved population, the Institute felt that it was important to educate both farmworkers and health care providers about pesticides and to strengthen the relationship between the two groups. As a result, the Institute has developed a comprehensive training program that not only builds the capacity of farmworker organizations regarding environmental hazards but also educates health care providers in the evaluation of pesticides on farmworkers' health. The Institute's Health Care Provider training is unique because a team consisting of a Master Trainer (from the farmworker community group) and a health care provider conduct the training for health care professionals.

For more information about this training and our organization, please contact us at:

The Farmworker Health and Safety Institute

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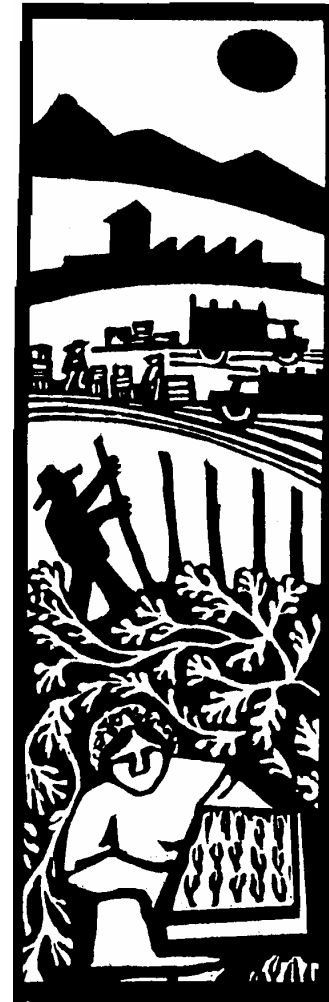
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Health Care Provider Training in the Evaluation of Pesticide Exposure of Farmworkers



The Farmworker Health and Safety Institute has responded to farmworkers' and clinicians' concerns about a growing need for training on recognizing pesticide poisoning, its related symptoms, treatment, and prevention by developing a comprehensive training to address these issues.



Photo by Marge Niedda

What makes our training unique?

The Institute has a history of creating dynamic and interactive trainings using a Popular Education Methodology to train farmworkers about relevant topics such as pesticide use and the Worker Protection Standard, organic farming, and OSHA rights.

This training, designed for health care providers to help them identify, diagnose, treat, and raise awareness about pesticide poisoning, uses the unique methodology of partnering a trainer from a community farmworker organization and a health care provider to co-train. This provides a greater depth of knowledge and experience from both a medical and community health perspective.

Relevant and practical topics covered during the health care provider training:

- History and Review of Symptoms
- Physical Examination and Signs
- Identifying the Pesticide
- Diagnostic Studies in Evaluating the Possibility of Pesticide Poisoning
- Health Effects of Pesticide Exposure and Poisoning
- Treatment of Pesticide Exposure and Poisoning
- Preventive Education, Discharge Instructions, and Follow-up
- Reporting Requirements for Suspected Incidents of Pesticide Poisoning
- Important Resources for Health Care Providers

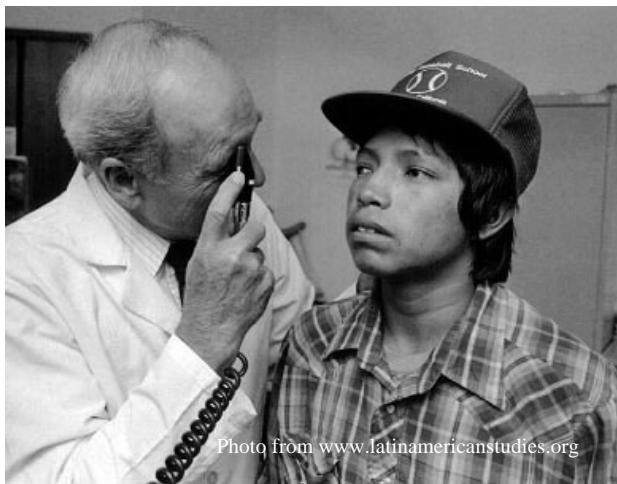


Photo from www.latinamericanstudies.org



By participating in this training, health care providers will:

- Receive hands-on instruction on how to use the Institute's guide, *Evaluation of Pesticide Exposure of Farmworkers*, which is keyed to EPA's publication: *Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings*. These resources are tools to familiarize participants with methods for diagnosis of pesticide poisoning, treatment and reporting of suspected pesticide poisoning in farmworkers.
- Learn how to take an occupational history.
- Discuss the role of health care providers in preventive education, workers compensation, and state reporting procedures.