

FACHC

THE VOICE OF PRIMARY CARE

FARMWORKERS IN THE SOUTHEAST ALABAMA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, MISSISSIPPI

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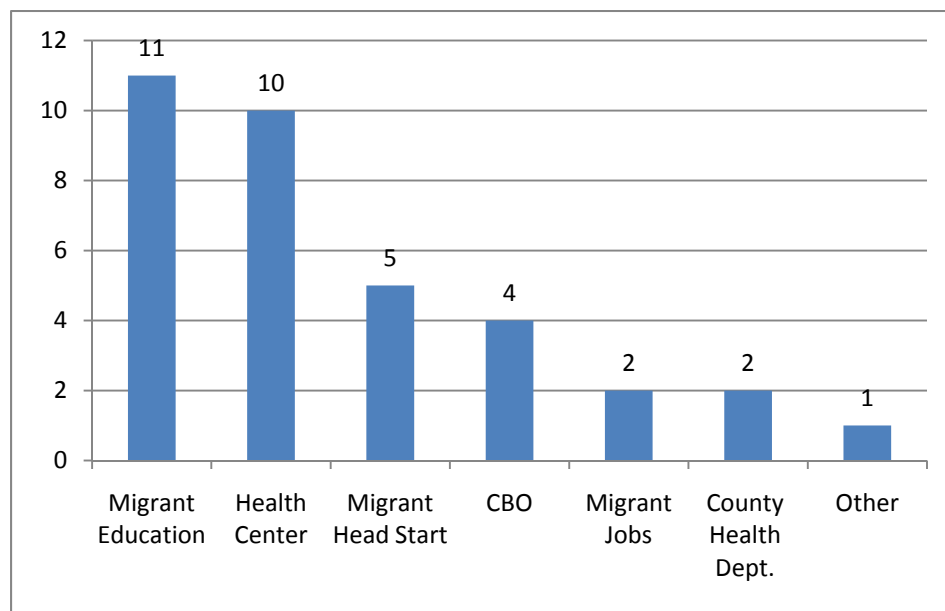
INTRODUCTION

This profile of Farmworkers in the Southeastern United States was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Primary Healthcare (BPHC), which funds the national migrant health program. The seven Regional Migrant Health Coordinators, also funded by the Bureau, were asked by the Office of Special Populations to research and report on issues related to farmworkers in their respective regions. The report covers information related to agricultural crops, farmworkers demographics, migration patterns, health needs and barriers to care as well as training and technical assistance needs at migrant health centers.

It can be difficult to find data on the farmworker population. Contributing factors include the migratory lifestyle many lead, their undocumented status, under-reporting by employers and general lack of priority put on the needs of this semi-invisible population. The profile is an attempt to fill in some of the gaps in information about Farmworkers in the Southeast. For the purposes of this profile, “The Southeast,” includes the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi.

In 2011, the Florida Association of Community Health Centers administered a questionnaire to farmworker organizations in the region. These included Federally Qualified Community Health Centers (FQHCs), Migrant Head Start, Migrant Education and Migrant Jobs Programs as well as community based organizations (CBOs) that work with the farmworker population. We received a total of thirty-five responses: twenty-seven from Florida, four from Alabama, three from Georgia and one from Mississippi. The following chart illustrates the responses by type of organization.

Illustration 1. FACHC Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire Respondents



Source: FACHC Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire, 2011

The data from FACHC's *Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire (SEMHQ)* was the source for much of the information contained in this document. Additionally, we've included data obtained from the Department of Labor's National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS), an employment-based, random survey of the demographic, employment, and health characteristics of the U.S. crop labor force. Between 1500 and 4000 agricultural workers have been interviewed each year since 1988. The NAWS data in this profile pertains specifically to the periods of 2000-2004 and 2005-2009 and encompasses the Southeastern states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina. During this period a total of 4601 farmworkers were interviewed. It should be noted that all of the BPHC defined Southeast States (AL, FL, GA, MS) are contained within the NAWs defined Southeastern Region. However, the NAWS data also includes the states of Arkansas, Louisiana and South Carolina.

In addition to the FACHC Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire and NAWS data, the profile incorporates information obtained through the *2011 Assessment of the Eastern Stream (2011AES)* conducted by the East Coast Regional Migrant Health Coordinators (Southeast, Mid-Atlantic and Northeast), at the 2011 East Coast Migrant Stream Forum. We've also incorporated data from the FACHC *Impact of Immigration Laws in the Southeast Survey (SEMHQ)* also conducted in 2011. Finally, a key source of agricultural data comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Our goal is to shed light on the current demographics, conditions and challenges faced by farmworkers in the Southeast, which we intend is to disseminate to Farmworker agencies and organizations throughout the region. We hope this contributes to better services and coordination between farmworker serving organizations and advocates in the Southeast.

OVERVIEW OF AGRICULTURE IN THE SOUTHEAST

The Bureau of Primary Healthcare definition of “Agriculture” reads as follows:

Farming in All of Its Branches Including:

- A) Cultivation and tilling of the soil*
- B) Production, cultivation, growing & harvesting of any commodity grown on, in or as adjunct to or part of a commodity grown in or on the land*
- C) Any practice including: Preparation & processing for market, P&P for delivery or storage, to market, to carriers for transportation to market*

The BPHC definition includes not only people who plant and harvest crops, but also those that work in packing houses, processing plants and preparation facilities directly affiliated with farms. Notably, the definition excludes poultry, livestock and fisheries which are all important industries in the Southeast. Health centers may still serve these populations; however, they do not receive the same incentives to serve workers from these industries as they do to serve farmworkers that fall within the program’s definition.

For the purposes of the migrant health program and this profile, we are primary concerned with those that work in horticultural (plant) crops requiring intensive manual labor. Some horticultural crops such as cotton, hay and grains play an important economic role in Southeastern agriculture, however, they are highly mechanized and are therefore less relevant for our purposes.

Important Agricultural Commodities

The following table illustrates the five most economically important agricultural products in each Southeastern state, with the percentage of total agricultural sales they represent. The shaded cells are labor intensive products that fall within the BPHC definition of “Farmworker”.

Illustration 2. Top Five Agricultural Products and Percentage of Total Agriculture Sales

	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	Mississippi
#1	Poultry and Eggs 70.5%	Fruits, tree nuts, and berries 27.5%	Poultry and Eggs 59.7%	Poultry and Eggs 50%
#2	Cattle/Calves 9.2%	Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod 27.2%	Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes 6.5%	Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas 22.3%
#3	Nursery Greenhouse 6%	Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes 18.3%	Cotton/Cottonseed 6%	Cotton/Cottonseed 7.4%
#4	Other crops/hay 2.8%	Other crops and hay 6.5%	Other crops and hay 5.2%	Cattle and Calves 6.6%
#5	Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas 2.7%	Cattle and calves 6.5%	Cattle/Calves 4.8%	Aquaculture 4.9%

U.S. Census of Agriculture 2007

The following tables look more closely at the labor intensive horticultural crops in the Southeast and their relative importance to the agriculture industry within each state. Column four indicates where each commodity ranks within the state in terms of economic importance. In most cases these horticultural crops rank near the top ten in economic importance in all four states, indicating a need for a significant number of workers.

**Illustration 3. Value, Ranking and Percentage of Total Agriculture Sales
Vegetables, Melons, Potatoes, and Sweet Potatoes**

State	Farms	Sales (\$1,000)	Rank in State	Percent of Total Ag Sales
Alabama	1,602	33,902	10	0.8
Florida	1,493	1,422,150	3	18.3
Georgia	1,346	459,612	2	6.5
Mississippi	1,156	82,498	7	1.7

U.S. Census of Agriculture 2007

**Illustration 4. Value, Ranking and Percentage of Total Agriculture Sales
Fruits, Tree Nuts, and Berries**

State	Farms	Sales (\$1000)	Rank in State	Percent of Total Ag
Alabama	1,708	27,610	11	0.6
Florida	8,858	2,144,718	1	27.5
Georgia	3,397	201,504	9	2.8
Mississippi	962	33,498	11	0.7

U.S. Census of Agriculture 2007

**Illustration 5. Value, Ranking and Percentage of Total Agriculture Sales
Nursery, Greenhouse, Floriculture, and Sod**

State	Farms	Sales (\$1,000)	Rank in State	Percent of Total Ag Sales
Alabama	675	264,807	3	6.0
Florida	4,778	2,115,641	2	27.2
Georgia	1,030	317,291	6	4.5
Mississippi	479	46,007	9	0.9

U.S. Census of Agriculture 2007

**Illustration 6. Value, Ranking and Percentage of Total Agriculture Sales
Cut Christmas Trees and Short Rotation Woody Crops**

State	Farms	Sales (\$1000)	Rank in State	Percent of Total Ag Sales
Alabama	59	1,036	15	<.1
Florida	53	390	16	<.1
Georgia	144	3,380	16	<.1
Mississippi	147	7,936	13	0.2

U.S. Census of Agriculture 2007

The table that follows shows specific horticultural commodities of importance in each state.

Illustration 7. Horticultural Crops of Importance in Southeast States

State	Crops
Alabama	Strawberries, Watermelon, Pecans, Onions, Tomatoes, Christmas Trees
Florida	Blueberries, Oranges, Tomatoes, Squash, Greens, Mushrooms, Corn, Onions, Tobacco, Peanuts, Strawberries, Watermelon, Nursery/Greenhouse
Georgia	Blueberries, Watermelon, Cantaloupes, Squash, Cucumbers, Onions, Cabbage, Sweet Corn, Carrots, Pecans, Pine Straw,
Mississippi	Fruits, Tree Fruits, Vegetables, Greenhouse/Nursery, Nuts, Grains/Grass Tree Pine Straw

U.S. Census of Agriculture 2007

Peak Agricultural Seasons

The chart below illustrates which months each state has the highest number of farmworkers. Often there is a month or two before and after the peak season, when a reduced but significant number of farworkers can be found in the area. This is referred to below as “Mid-season”. The “Low season” is when the fewest farmworkers will be present. For all but Florida, the peak months are between March and September. For Florida, it is the opposite. There the peak agricultural season begins in November and runs through March.

Illustration 8. Southeast Agricultural Seasons

State	Peak Season	Mid-Season	Low Season
Alabama	May-July	Aug-Sept	Oct – April
Florida	October. - April	May-June	July-Sept
Georgia	April – July, Dec-Jan	March Oct-Nov	February Aug-Sept.
Mississippi	March – Sept	N/A	Oct - Feb

Source: FACHC Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire 2010 and U.S. Census of Agriculture 2007

Migration Patterns

FACHC *Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire (SEMHQ)* respondents were asked to identify where migrants in their area travel to and from. Below is a breakdown of responses by state. The columns show what percentage of respondents indicated that migrants travel to or from specific states. There was a strong correlation between Alabama, Florida and Georgia. Florida farmworkers also most commonly migrate to and from Michigan and North Carolina, followed by South Carolina and Texas. While these were the most prominent states mentioned as migrant destinations, states as far away as Oregon, Washington and California were also significant.

Illustration 9. Alabama Migration Patterns

Percentage of Respondents	60-69%	30-39%
Farmworkers Migrate To	FL, GA	AL, TX
Farmworkers Migrate From	N/A	FL, MX

Source: FACHC Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire, 2011

Illustration 10. Florida Migration Patterns

Percentage of Respondents	40-49%	30-39%	20-29%	10-19%	0-9%
Farmworkers	GA	FL, MI	SC	AL, NJ, TN, VA	DE, IN, KY, MD, NY, OH
Farmworkers Migrate From	NC	N/A	GA, TX	MI, OH, SC	AL, AZ, CA,

Source: FACHC Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire, 2011

Illustration 11. Georgia Migration Patterns

Percentage of Respondents	90-99%	60-69%	30-39%
Farmworkers Migrate to	N/A	FL, NC	MI, NJ, NY, OH,
Farmworkers Migrate From	FL	NC	SC, TX, WA

Source: FACHC Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire, 2011

Unfortunately, we did not have enough data to analyze migration patterns to and from Mississippi.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Enumeration

According to the BPHC definition, a farmworker is an individual and their dependants, who derives at least 51% of their income from agricultural employment and who has been so employed within the last 24 months or before retirement or disability. Using this definition there are an estimated 379,436 migrant and seasonal farmworkers, including their dependents, in the Southeast Region. This excludes workers in fisheries, poultry, livestock and other categories that are not included in the BPHC definition.

By far the greatest number of farmworkers reside in Florida, a “Sending” state, meaning that migrant farmworkers use this as a home base from which they migrate up and down the Eastern stream and elsewhere, returning to Florida at the end of the northern agricultural seasons.

Illustration 12. Horticultural Farmworker Estimates by State

State	Horticultural	Dependents	Total
Alabama	13,975	12,916	26,891
Florida	134,635	124,438	259,073
Georgia	31,610	29,216	60,826
Mississippi	16,966	15,600	32,646

Source: National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH), 2011

Disclaimer: This is a threshold estimate only. In order to derive a validated and complete estimate, the data referenced here must undergo an established research and review process, which is designed to be conducted on a county by county basis. The numbers contained herein have not been adjusted to reflect the following factors which could increase the total estimate of potential migratory and seasonal farmworker users in the state:

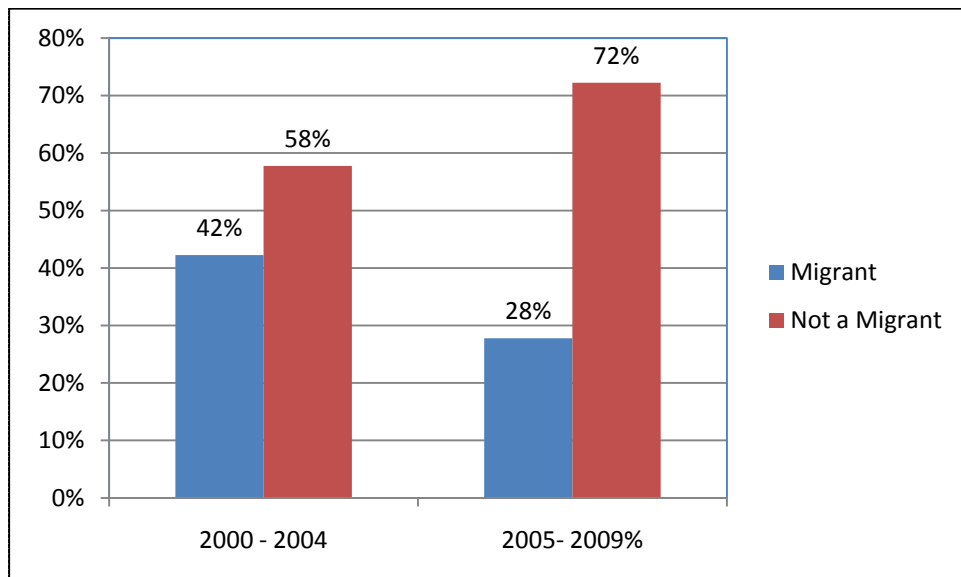
1. Local data that confirms the identified factor for estimating the number of non working dependents of agricultural workers or offers a different factor.
2. Aged and Disabled Former Farmworkers.
3. Under-reporting by agricultural employers.
4. Unemployed and underemployed agricultural workers in the county.
5. Unique weather conditions in 2007 that may have skewed the COA data.
6. Changes in agricultural practices that have occurred since 2007 that

Migrant and Seasonal Characteristics

According to the BPHC definition, there are two categories of farmworkers, “Migrant” and “Seasonal”. A migrant is a farmworker who establishes a temporary home for the purposes of agricultural employment. A seasonal farmworker is not migratory and does not need to establish a temporary home for the purposes of employment. Seasonal farmworkers live in one place year round and work in agriculture seasonally depending on what crops are being planted or harvested etc.

The table below illustrates that between 2000 and 2009, the proportion of non-migrant (seasonal) farmworkers has grown from fifty-eight percent (58%) to seventy-two percent (72%). The proportion of migrants has dropped from forty-two percent (42%) to twenty-eight percent (28%). This illustrates a trend toward farmworkers settling into one area instead of migrating from place to place.

Illustration 13. Migrant Vs. Seasonal Characteristics 2000-2009

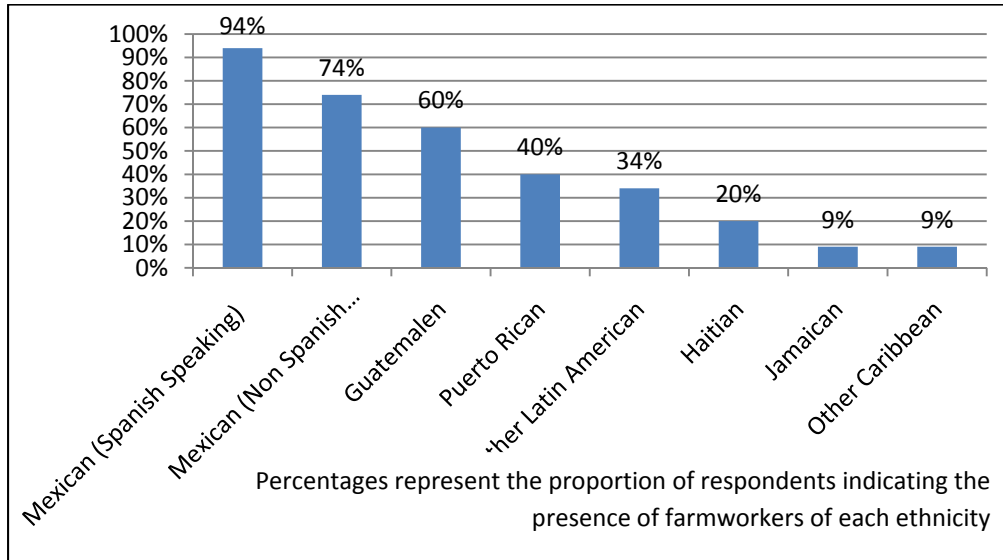


Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey: Southeast Region, 2000-2009

Nationality and Ethnicity

When asked to identify the dominant ethnicities of farmworkers in their areas, ninety-four percent (94%) of FACHC *SEMHO* respondents indicated that Spanish speaking Mexicans were present in their areas. This was followed by non Spanish-speaking Mexicans (74%) and Guatemalans (60%). The latter two illustrate a trend toward more indigenous speaking farmworkers in the Southeast.

Illustration 14. Farmworker Ethnicity



Source: FACHC Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire, 2011

The table below provides a breakdown by state of the ethnicities identified by the *SEMHQ* respondents. All four states indicate the presence of non -Spanish speaking Mexicans and Guatemalans, who also tend to be indigenous language speakers.

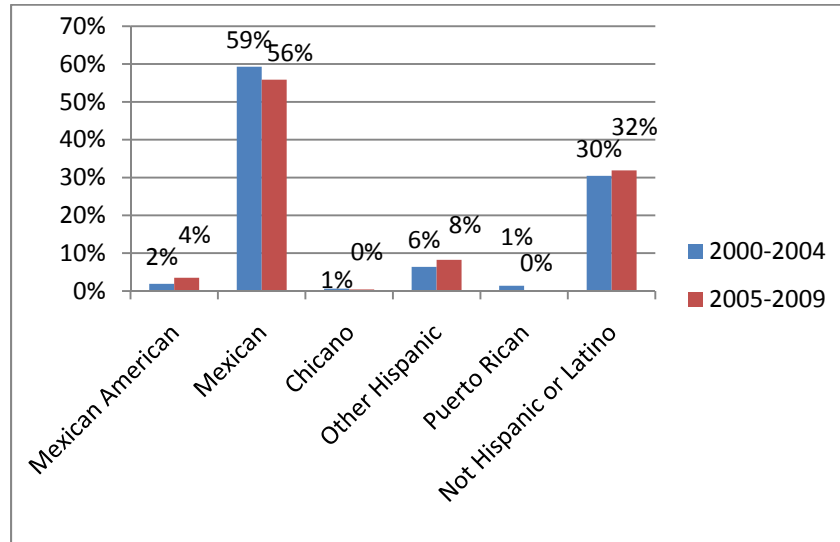
Illustration 15. Percent of Respondents By State with Reported Ethnicity

Alabama		Georgia	
Guatemala	25.0%	Guatemala	33.3%
Haitian	0.0%	Haitian	33.3%
Jamaican	0.0%	Jamaican	0.0%
Mexican (Non Spanish speaking)	75.0%	Mexican (Non Spanish speaking)	0.0%
Mexican (Spanish speaking)	100.0%	Mexican (Spanish speaking)	100.0%
Other Caribbean	25.0%	Other Caribbean	0.0%
Other Latin American	25.0%	Other Latin American	66.7%
Puerto Rican	50.0%	Puerto Rican	33.3%
Florida		Mississippi	
Guatemala	63.0%	Guatemala	100.0%
Haitian	40.7%	Haitian	0.0%
Jamaican	11.1%	Jamaican	0.0%
Mexican (Non Spanish speaking)	81.5%	Mexican (Non Spanish speaking)	0.0%
Mexican (Spanish speaking)	100.0%	Mexican (Spanish speaking)	100.0%
Other Caribbean	7.4%	Other Caribbean	0.0%
Other Latin American	40.7%	Other Latin American	100.0%
Puerto Rican	14.8%	Puerto Rican	0.0%

Source: FACHC Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire, 2011

As with respondents of the FACHC *SEMHQ*, the NAWs data indicate that Mexicans make up by far the greatest proportion of farmworkers in the Southeast. This has remained consistent since 2000.

Illustration 16. Farmworker Ethnicity (2)

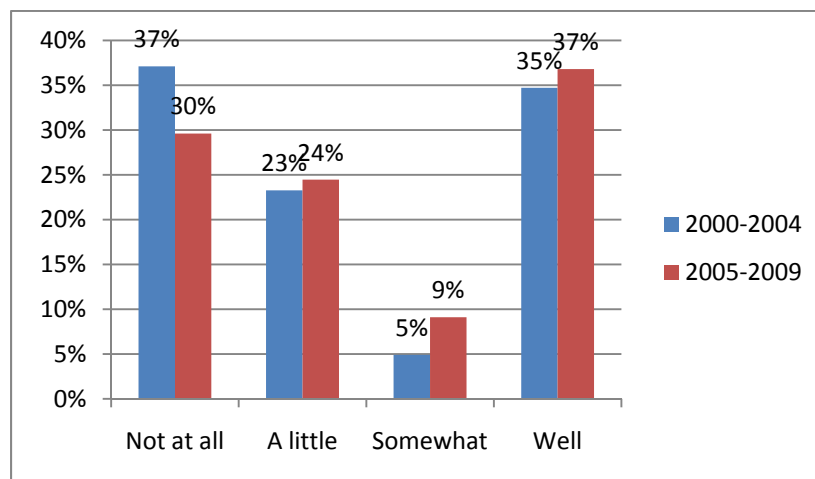


Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey: Southeast Region, 2000-2009

Language

In the period from 2005-2009, only thirty-seven percent (37%) of Farmworkers indicated that they had the ability to speak English well. Notably, thirty percent (30%) said they had no ability to speak English at all. The remaining respondents indicated they could speak English “Somewhat” or “A little”.

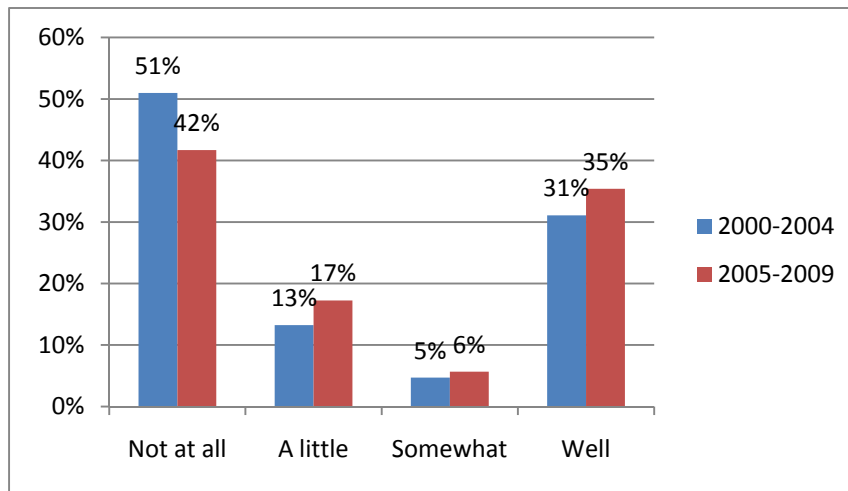
Illustration 17. How Well Farmworkers Speak English



Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey: Southeast Region, 2000-2009

In the most recent NAWS interviews, forty-two percent (42%) of farmworkers indicated that they do not read English at all, with another seventeen percent (17%) saying they can only read it a little. Only thirty-five percent (35%) of respondents said they can read English well. As with speaking, more farmworkers are saying they can read English well and fewer are saying they can't read the language at all. But nearly sixty percent (60%) still indicate not reading English at all or just a little.

Illustration 18. How Well Farmworkers Read English

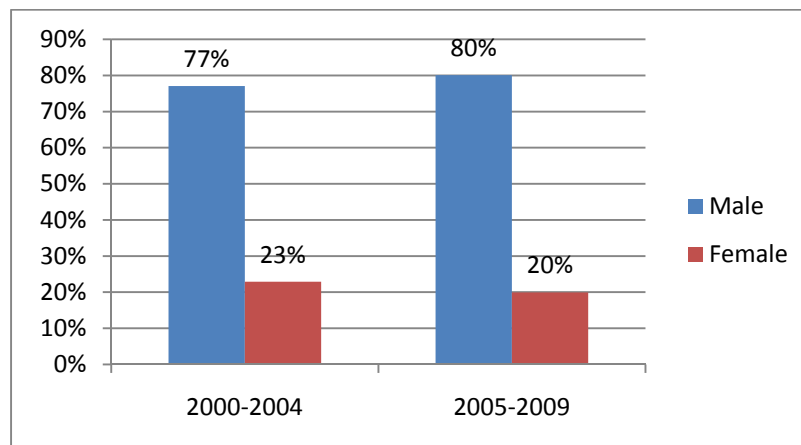


Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey: Southeast Region, 2000-2009

Gender

Approximately twenty percent (20%) of farmworkers are female. This does not appear to have changed significantly since 2000.

Illustration 19. Farmworker Gender

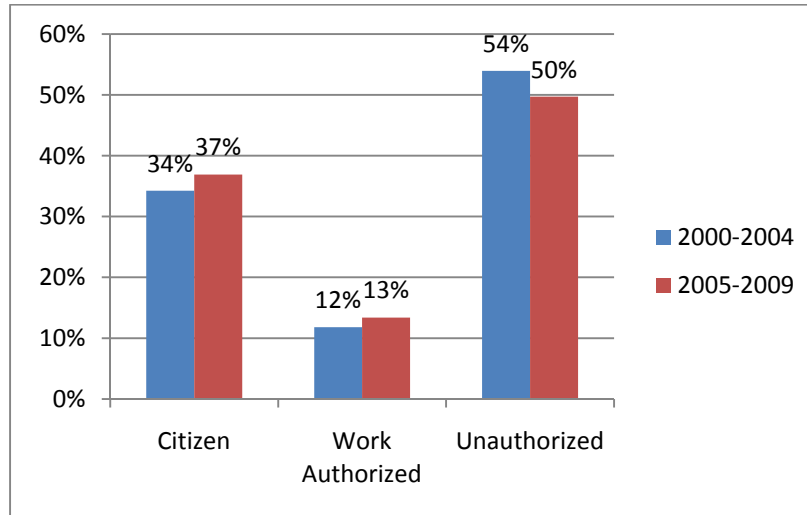


Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey: Southeast Region, 2000-2009

Legal Status

There has not been a significant change since 2000 in the proportion of farmworkers who are in the United States legally versus those that are not authorized to be here. The undocumented population has remained near fifty percent (50%). The other half is made up of either citizens or people who have authorization to work in the U.S. See the chart below for more details.

Illustration 20. Legal Status

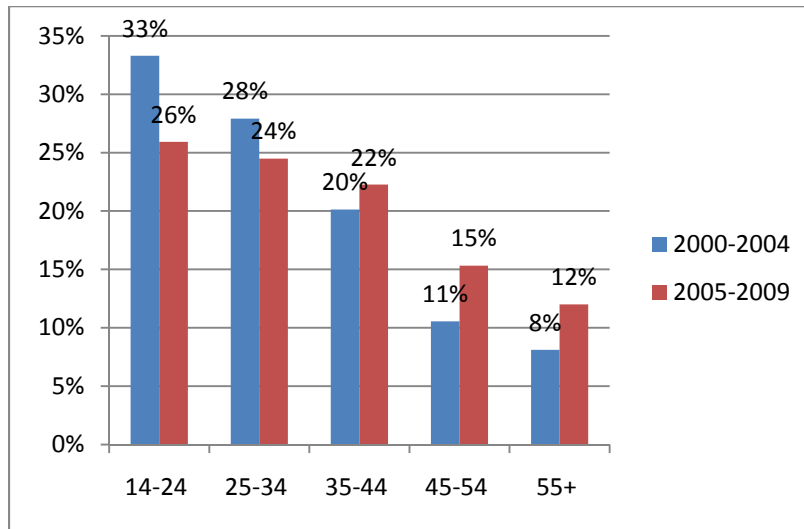


Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey: Southeast Region, 2000-2009

Age

According to the NAWs data the average age of farmworkers has gotten older since 2000. There has been a ten percent (10%) increase in the thirty-five and older categories, while the thirty-four and younger categories have dropped by the same amount.

Illustration 21. Age

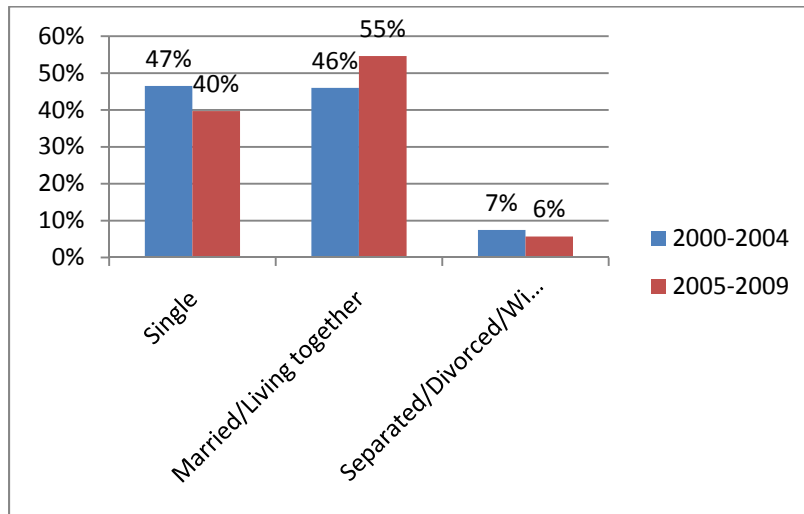


Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey: Southeast Region, 2000-2009

Marital Status

NAWS data indicate that more farmworkers were married or living together during the period from 2005-2009 than during the previous five year period.

Illustration 22. Marital Status

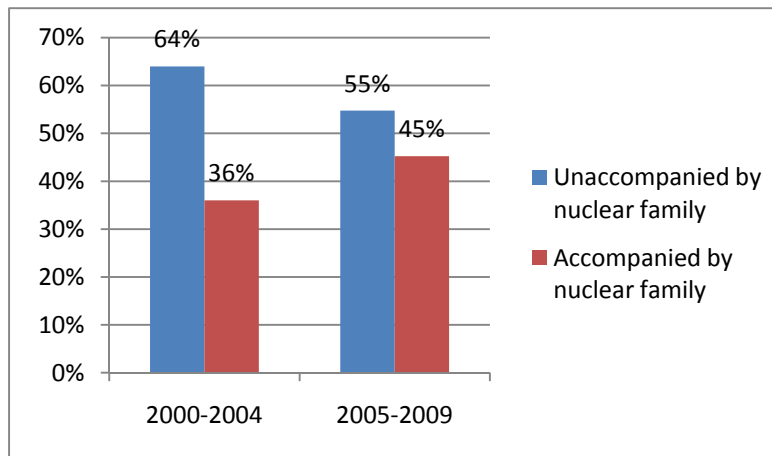


Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey: Southeast Region, 2000-2009

Family Travel Status

Forty-five percent (45%) of migrant farmworkers travel with their nuclear family. This is up nine percent (9%) from 2004. It is interesting to note that while fewer farmworkers are migrating, those that do are bringing their families in higher numbers than previously.

Illustration 23. Family Travel Status



Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey: Southeast Region, 2000-2009

Income

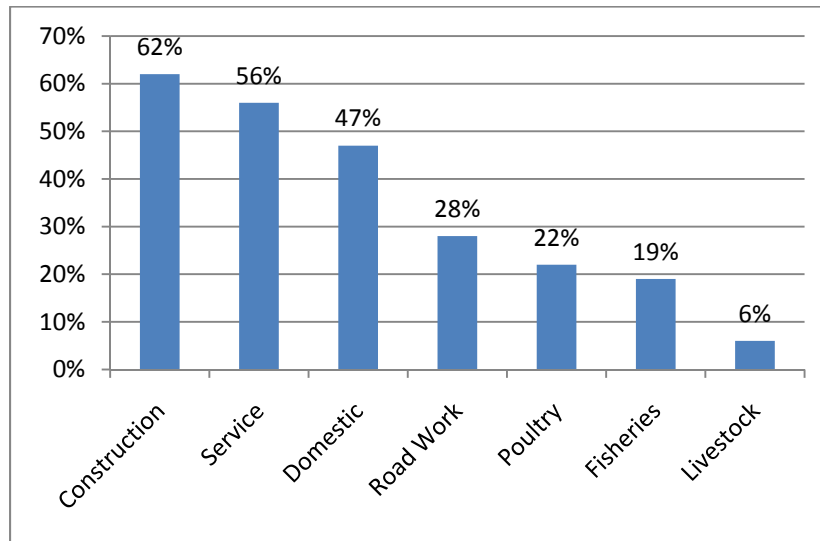
Income from farmworker is highly volatile since agricultural productivity is dependent on the weather and other variables out of human control. Pests and diseases, for example, can reap havoc on crops, negatively impacting income for years at a time. Likewise with hurricanes, freezes, floods and other weather conditions.

Leaving out the twenty-one percent (21%) of NAWs respondents who either didn't work in agriculture during the previous year, or didn't know how much they made, fifty-seven percent (57%) of farmworker families interviewed between 2005 and 2009, had a total family income of \$19,999 or less, while forty-three percent (43%) had an income of \$20,000 or more. It is highly probable that the latter group's average income is not far over the \$20,000 threshold, since farmwork is one of the most poorly paid jobs in America. Financial compensation is based on measures of productivity such as bushels picked, rather than on a predictable salary, and underperformance results in job loss. Because of these vagaries, farmworker income may vary drastically from week to week, month to month or year to year.

Other Industries

Farmworkers often move back and forth between agriculture and other industries. Results of the FACHC *SEMHQ* indicate that construction, service and domestic work are the primary industries farmworkers in the Southeast are employed in, other than agriculture. These are followed by road work, poultry, fisheries and livestock.

Illustration 24. Other Industries Farmworkers Work In



Source: FACHC Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire, 2011

This data is consistent with input received for the *2011 Assessment of the Eastern Stream (AES)* in which eighty-three percent (83%) of respondents (7 of 12) indicated that farmworkers in their areas also work in construction; twenty-five percent (25%), 3 of 12 respondents, indicated farmworkers are employed in landscaping. Other industries mentioned were hotel maintenance, day care and ferneries/nurseries.

Trends

Southeast data collected for the *2011 Assessment of the Eastern Stream (AES)* and for the FACHC *Impact of Immigration Laws in the Southeast Survey (IILSS)* indicate that the number of farmworkers is declining in some areas. Eighty-five percent (85%) of Florida AES respondents (5 of 6) indicated that the number of farmworkers in their area is declining. When asked to estimate the percentage decline in farmworkers, three of six gave an estimate of twenty percent (20%) One hundred percent (100%) of Georgia respondents (4 of 4) indicated a decline in the number of farmworkers in their areas. An estimate of twelve and a half percent (12.5%) was provided by one of the four respondents. The single person from Alabama that responded to this question gave an estimated decline in farmworkers in their area of approximately twenty percent (20%).

These numbers are consistent with responses to FACHC's *IILSS*, in which seventy-three percent (73%) of respondents (8 of 11) indicated a decline in farmworkers for their area and eighty-nine percent (89%) estimated the reduction to be ten percent (10%) or greater. Eighty-two percent (82%) of health centers (9 of 11) estimated that farmworker encounters had gone down over the past year. Fifty-five percent (55%) estimated the decline to be ten percent (10%) or greater. Sixty-four percent (64%) of *IILSS* respondents (7 of 11) indicated a significant drop in farmworker attendance at health fairs and other community events. When asked whether growers had expressed difficulty finding workers in their area, seventy-three percent (73%) of *IILSS* respondents (8 of 11) responded affirmatively.

Three of six Florida respondents to the *Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire* said they are seeing an increase in women and children who are either farmworkers themselves or dependent on farmworkers for their livelihood. One Florida respondent indicated more homelessness in this population and another indicated that farmworkers are leaving agriculture for other industries in greater numbers. A Georgia respondent indicated an increase in the number of Haitian farmworkers, which is consistent with recent information gathered in Georgia by the Southeast Regional Migrant Health Coordinator. Haitians tend to have higher rates of legal status and appear to be getting recruited to fill the gap in workers resulting from that state's recently passed HB 87 anti-immigration law.

With regard to changes in migration *2011AES* respondents indicated that more Florida migrants were leaving early to bypass Georgia before their immigration law took effect. Many were not planning on returning. Respondents in Alabama and Georgia indicated that Farmworkers in their states were leaving permanently to live in other states, or returning to Mexico. Fear and lack of trust were frequently given as the primary reasons why farmworkers are leaving.

Since migrants based in Florida must pass through Georgia and Alabama to get to any other state, we will be monitoring how new laws in these two states will impact the number of farmworkers migrating from Florida.

FARMWORKER HEALTH

Health Prevalence

FACHC *SEMHO* respondents were asked to rank health conditions seen among farmworkers. Oral health ranked number one, followed by diabetes and substance abuse.

Illustration 25. Farmworker Health Conditions

Health Condition	Rank
Poor Oral Health	1
Diabetes	2
Alcohol and Drug Abuse	3
Heart Disease	4
Pesticide Exposure	5
Late Entry Into Prenatal Care	6
Poor Mental Health	7
Infectious Disease	8
Asthma	9
Other Respiratory	10
Other Occupational Injury	11

Source: FACHC Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire, 2011

Since such a high number of farmworkers are Hispanic it is worth taking note of the health disparities in that population. Factors that contribute to poor health outcomes among Hispanics include language and cultural barriers, lack of access to preventive care, and lack of health insurance.

Illustration 26. Hispanic Leading Causes of Death

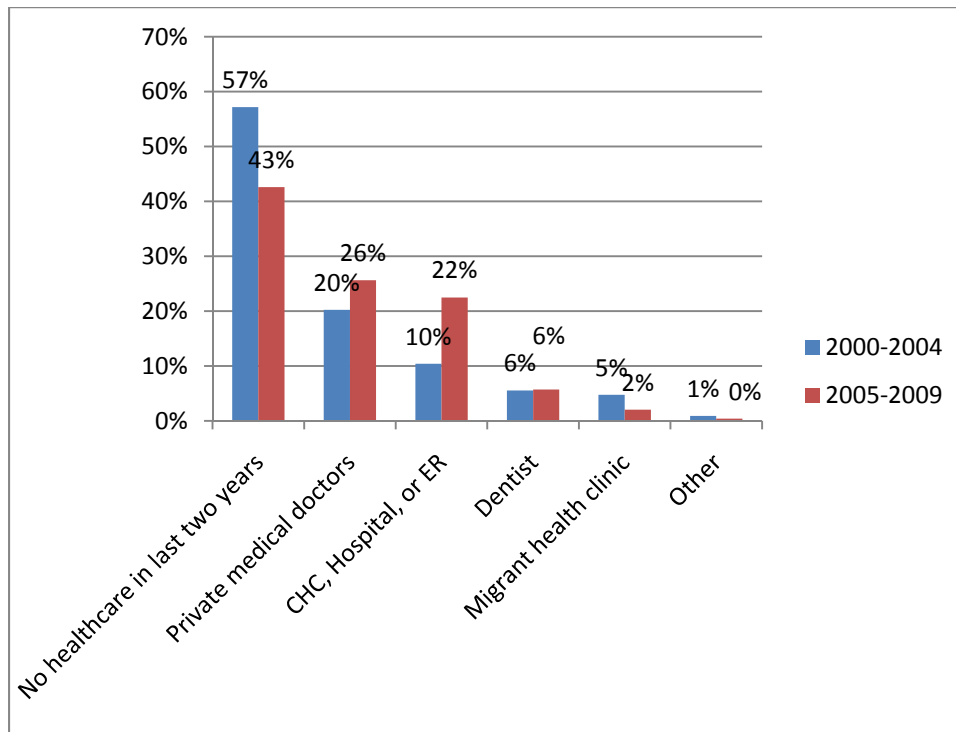
Cause of Death	Rank
Heart Disease	1
Cancer	2
Unintentional Injuries	3
Stroke	4
Diabetes	5
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	6
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	7
Homicide	8
Prenatal Conditions	9
Influenza and Pneumonia	10

Source: CDC, 2007

Healthcare Use

According to the most recent NAWs data, forty-three percent (43%) of farmworkers interviewed indicated they had not used any healthcare services in the U.S. during the previous two years. This was down from fifty-seven percent (57%) in the previous five year period. Use of federally qualified health migrant centers rose by nine percent (9%) and use of private doctors by six (6%) from 2004 and 2009. Use of federally qualified community (vs. migrant) health centers declined by three percent (3%).

Illustration 27. U.S. Healthcare Use



Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey: Southeast Region, 2000-2009

Federally Qualified Health Centers

There were 96,497 farmworkers served in federally qualified migrant and community health centers in the Southeast in 2010. This was up slightly from 2008. The number of farmworker patients served at FQHCs in the Southeast since 2008 has increased in every state except for Florida, which saw a drop in farmworker numbers. The reason for the decline may be attributed to any number of factors. It could be a result of a decline in agricultural land corresponding with rapid population growth and suburban development. It could be attributed to poor data collection on this population on the part of health centers. Strong anti-immigration sentiments may play a significant role.

Illustration 28. Farmworkers Served at FQHCS 2008-2010

	2010	2009	2008	Increase or Decrease
Alabama	10,664	10,212	8,874	Up 20%
Georgia	16,734	17,982	15,101	Up 11%
Florida	68,100	68,911	71,341	Down 4.5%
Mississippi	999	1,261	818	Up 22%

Source: BPHC Uniform Data System, 2008-2010

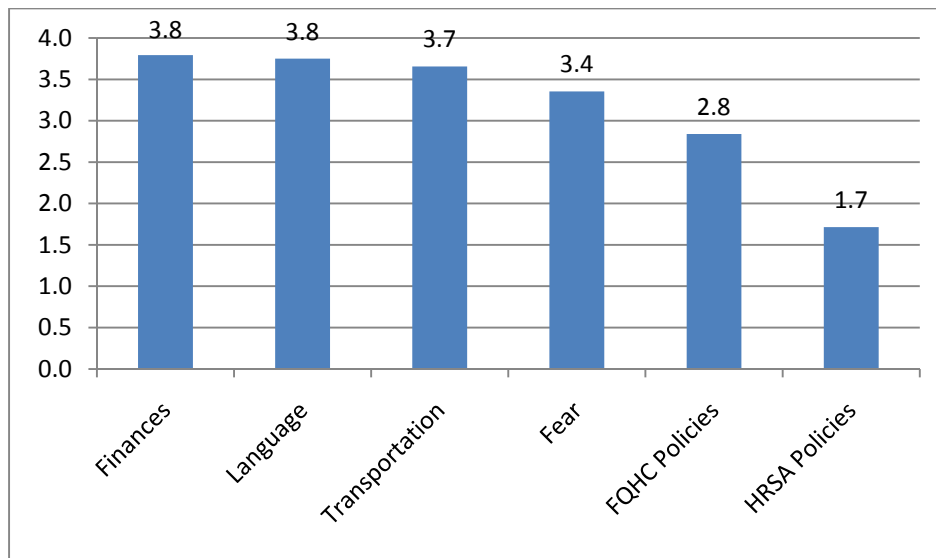
Barriers to Care

The farmworker population faces many barriers to accessing healthcare, particularly those that migrate. FACHC *SEMHO* respondents indicated that finances and language were the greatest barriers to care for this population, followed very closely by transportation. Fear was another important factor, which has been amplified recently by anti-immigrant laws passed in Alabama and Georgia and proposed in Florida.

Health center and BBHC policies were not identified as critical barriers in the FACHC *SEMHO*, however, anecdotal evidence from the region suggests that health center policies regarding income verification can create significant barriers to care for this population if a well thought out income verification process is not in place. Health centers whose policies do not take into consideration the wild fluctuations in income earned by farmworkers, and the fact that they may be able to present the same type of documentation as other patients, make it difficult for agricultural workers to be placed at the appropriate place on their sliding fee schedule. Farmworker income can vary greatly from week to week, month to month, and year to year. And most Farmworkers get paid in cash.

The following chart reflects where FACHC *SEMHO* respondents rated different barriers to care for this population out of a possible score of five (5).

Illustration 29. Barriers to Healthcare

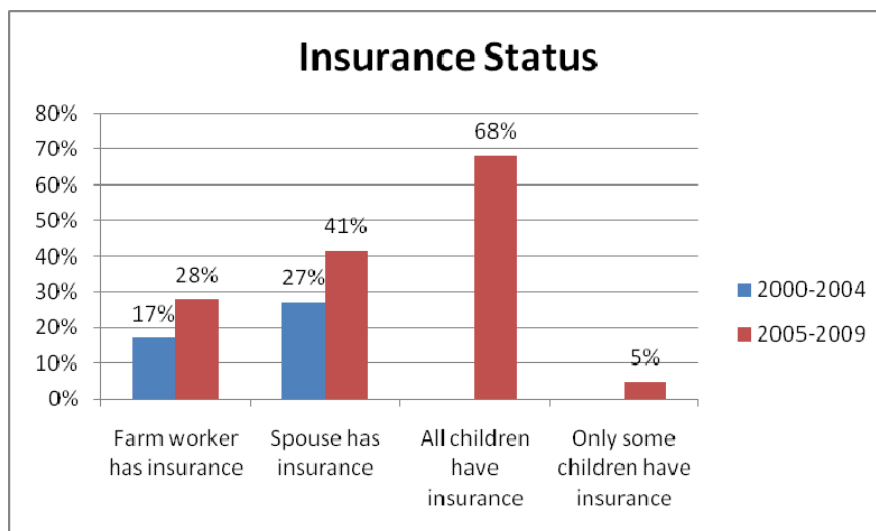


Source: FACHC Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire, 2011

Insurance Status

During the period between 2005 and 2009, twenty-eight percent (28%) of farmworkers interviewed for the NAWS indicated having had health insurance. Forty-one percent (41%) of spouses had insurance. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of respondents indicated that all the children in their household had insurance, while five percent (5%) indicated that only some of their children were insured.

Illustration 30. Insurance Status

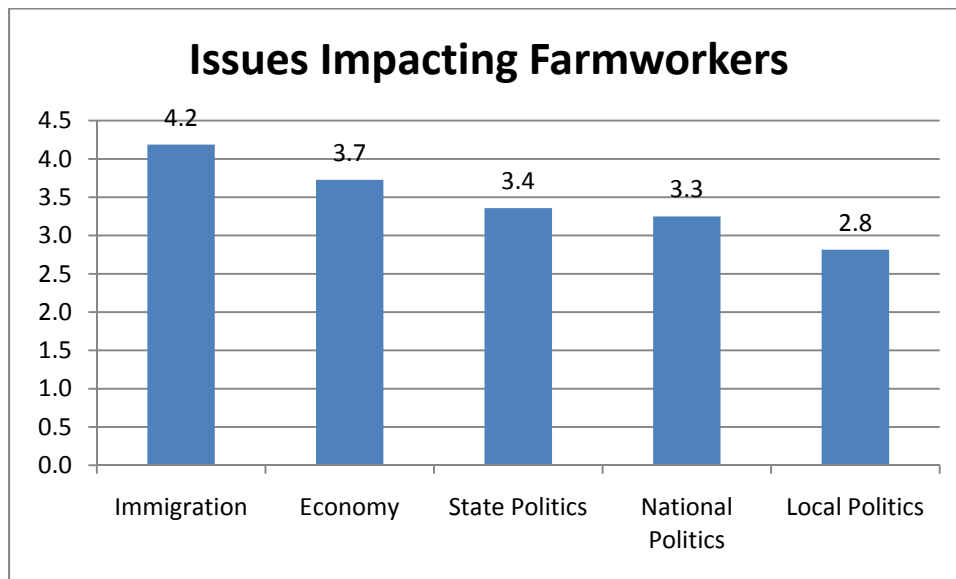


Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey: Southeast Region, 2000-2009

Issues Impacting Care

Anti-immigrant sentiment has grown throughout the Southeast in recent years. Both Georgia and Alabama have passed restrictive immigrant laws and a similar law was narrowly defeated in Florida during the 2011 legislative session. As a result immigrant farmworkers are more fearful than ever about accessing healthcare services and are generally limiting their mobility for fear of being picked up by law enforcement. There have been credible reports of road blocks and raids near health clinics, giving farmworkers good reason to be afraid. Eighty-two percent (82%) of *IILSS* respondents indicated that in the past year there have been incidents of farmworkers or immigrants in their area being arrested or intercepted in the process of accessing healthcare services. Not surprisingly, immigration was identified by FACHC *SEMHQ* respondents as the greatest issue currently impacting farmworkers in the region, followed by the economy.

Illustration 31. Issues Impacting Farmworkers



Source: FACHC Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire, 2011

Health Center Training and Technical Assistance Needs

FACHC *SEMHQ* respondents were asked to identify priority training and technical assistance needs for health centers. Outreach, health literacy and cultural competence were the top three identified, followed by: Customer Service, Clinical Issues, Lay Health Programs, Migrant Health 101, Governance and Farmworker Eligibility.

Illustration 32. Health Center Training and Technical Assistance Needs

Training of T. A. Need	Rank
Outreach	1
Health Literacy	2
Cultural Competence	3
Customer Service	4
Clinical Issues	5
Lay Health Programs	6
Migrant Health 101	7
Governance	8
Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Eligibility	9

Source: FACHC Southeast Migrant Health Questionnaire, 2011

Southeastern respondents in the 2011 *Assessment of the Eastern Stream (AES)* identified the following clinical training needs: STDs/HIV/AIDS education and testing ; oral health (2); diabetes (2); eye care; high blood pressure; substance abuse; domestic violence; mental health (2); nutrition. They also expressed a desire for more information about how the Affordable Care Act will impact farmworkers and a need to sustain and expand statewide farmworker networks.

When asked to identify adaptations being made to respond to the challenges presented by harsh immigration laws, FACHC *Impact of Immigration Laws in the Southeast (IILSS)* respondents indicated that they are: Working more closely with growers and crew leaders, Providing services in the fields instead of at farmworker camps, Increasing outreach , Developing new declaration of income forms, Using more lay health workers to educate Farmworkers about chronic diseases, Expanding their outreach departments, and Opening more convenient sites.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC)

- Encourage and facilitate collaboration and communication between various federal farmworker programs (Migrant Health Centers, Migrant Head Start, Migrant Education, etc).
- Require federal staff with oversight of migrant health centers to undergo training in best practices in migrant health.
- Provide more funding opportunities to create or expand outreach and lay health worker programs.
- Increase emphasis on oral healthcare for farmworkers.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

- To the extent possible, beef up outreach and lay health worker programs and partner with other farmworker organizations to reach out to this population.
- Take full advantage of PCA, BPHC and farmworker Health Network trainings in migrant health.
- Provide ongoing communication to PCAs about specific training and technical assistance needs.
- Administer an occupational history form to farmworkers and train physicians to properly identify, treat and report pesticide related illnesses.
- Use outreach programs to educate farmworkers about access to care at FQHCS and immigration laws vs. myths that may deter them from seeking services
- Enroll farmworkers and their families in public insurance programs they are eligible for.
- Provide cultural competence training for staff around Farmworker issues.
- Provide medical interpreter training for bilingual staff.
- Use income verification methods that are sensitive to the vagaries of farm work and to farmworker traditional living arrangements.
- Work with community partners to address transportation issues.
- Contact your Regional Migrant Health Coordinator for assistance serving this population.

Primary Care Associations

- Assist FQHCs in finding funding for outreach and lay health worker programs.
- Sponsor local and statewide trainings related to outreach and lay health worker programs, customer service and clinical issues specific to this population
- Showcase best practices for addressing key issues in farmworker health.
- Encourage collaboration and communication between FQHCs and other Farmworker organizations such as migrant education, migrant head start, migrant jobs and community based

and/or religious organizations.

All Farmworker Advocates

- Educate policy makers about the negative implications of passing an Arizona and Alabama style immigration laws.
- Support national, comprehensive immigration reform.
- Educate farmworkers around myths vs. realities of seeking healthcare, and related issues.
- Educate farmworkers about services available at FQHCs and their locations

FARMWORKER HEALTH RESOURCES

NATIONAL FARMWORKER HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS			
Farmworker Justice	Occupational and environmental health, health care access, HIV/AIDS, etc.	(202) 293-5427	www.farmworkerjustice.org
Health Outreach Partners	Outreach and enabling services, program planning and development, cultural competency, etc.	(510) 268-0091	www.outreach-partners.org
Migrant Clinicians Network	Clinic systems, protocols, and procedures, clinical education, program development and evaluation, etc.	(512) 327-2017	www.migrantclinician.org
Migrant Health Promotion	Promotora and Camp Health Aide programs	(956) 968-3600	www.migranthealth.org
National Association of Community Health Centers	HRSA program and funding initiatives, M/CHC governance, HIT, finance, workforce	(301) 347-0400	www.nachc.com
National Center for Farmworker Health	Capacity building, health education materials, health promotion programs, leveraging of resources , etc.	(512) 312-2700	www.ncfh.org
REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS			
Alabama Primary Care Association	Community Development, Training and technical assistance, Community and migrant health center locations	(334) 271-7068	http://www.alphca.com/
Georgia Primary Care Association	Community Development, Training and technical assistance, Community Health Center locations	(404) 659-2861	http://www.gaphc.org/
Mississippi Primary Care Association	Community Development, Training and technical assistance, Community Health Center locations	(601) 981-1817	http://www.mphca.com/
Georgia Migrant Health Program Georgia Office of Rural Health	Migrant health center locations	(229) 401-3096	http://www.georgia.gov/00/channel_title/0.2094,31446711_40951017,00.html
Southeast Migrant Health Coordinator (AL, FL, GA, MS) Florida Association of Community Health Centers	Migrant Health Orientation, Governance, Identification and verification, Needs Assessment, Community Development	(850) 942-1811	http://www.fachc.org/migrant-health.php