

Community Health Center of Franklin County brings care to Migrant and Seasonal Farmworks

in association with The Connecticut River Valley
Farmworker Health Program (CRVFHP)

Nationwide Farmworker stats

- Out of the 20 million patients seen at Community Health Centers nationwide, 900,000 are Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers (MSFW).
- The average total family income is between \$15,000 to \$17,499, many with poor living and working conditions that may lead to varied health conditions. The average farmworker family size is estimated at three members.

Nationwide Farmworker stats (cont)

- Farmworkers are more likely to experience higher rates of work related injury, respiratory and musculoskeletal ailments, eye problems, hypertension, diabetes and pesticide related illness. *i.e 1.5 times more likely to develop dermatitis, 2x more likely to get tuberculosis*
- This is exacerbated by lack of health coverage as only 47% MSFW surveys reported some type of health coverage

Franklin County Stats

- Franklin County has a total of 725 square miles
- The agricultural land is 20,132 acres planted and harvested.
 - Within those acres, 3,358 are considered labor intensive crops
- Estimated MSFW population and dependents in Franklin County is 2,567 ; Those \leq 200% FPL: 1,615

CHC of Franklin County Facts

- CHCFC was founded in 1997 in Turners Falls
- As of 2015 we have two medical sites located in Greenfield, MA and Orange, MA
- Since 2001 we have offered dental services and ever since 2006 have two dental sites in Turners Falls, MA and Orange, MA

CHCFC Facts

- We are a private nonprofit agency overseen by a community Board of Directors. At least **51%** of our **Board of Directors** must be patients of the health center.
- In 2014 we saw 25,327 Medical, Dental, and Nutrition visits

CRVFHP Stats

- Within MA and CT there are six organizations or agencies that work with The Connecticut River Valley Farmworker Health Program.
- They provide multiple types of care:
 - Primary care services
 - Outpatient physician visits
 - Diagnostic laboratory & X-ray services
 - Screenings & immunizations
 - Outpatient mental health & substance abuse services
 - Vision care
 - Dental care
 - Pharmacy services

Definition of Migrant Farmworkers

- **Migrant:** As defined by Section 330g of the Public Health Service Act, a migrant agricultural worker is an individual whose principle employment is in agriculture on a seasonal basis (as opposed to year-round employment) and who establishes a temporary home for the purposes of such employment.

Definition of Seasonal Farmworkers

- **Seasonal:** As defined by Section 330g of the Public Health Service Act, a migrant agricultural worker is an individual whose principle employment is in agriculture on a seasonal basis (as opposed to year-round employment) and who does not establish a temporary home for the purposes of such employment

Difference between Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers

Central difference between seasonal and migrant is that our seasonal workers typically live here throughout the year, though may travel regionally with the harvest season to find work. Migrant workers will travel home during the winter months with hopes of returning for the next growing season.

Farmworker Native Countries

- Seasonal farmworkers primarily come from Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras
- Migrant farmworkers primarily come from Jamaica

Housing for Migrant Workers vs. Seasonal Workers

- Migrant workers are provided collective housing by their employer (bunkhouse style accommodations).
- Seasonal workers find their own housing, usually rent or sub-let and live with many members in overcrowded conditions

Success of CRVFHP Program at CHCFC

- CHCFC has participated in CRVFHP since 1998
- In 2014 we received a total of \$63,056 to fund our farmworker program
 - A total of 321 Farmworkers are helped from this grant

Success of CRVFHP Program at CHCFC (continued)

- As of 2013 clinical performance measures for tobacco screening was 91% and 79% were offered tobacco cessation.
- During 2014 we had a total of 130 farmworkers and their dependents seen for dental care.
 - From those patients there were a total of 420 visits.

Success of CRVFHP Program at CHCFC (continued)

- HEALTH INSURANCE
 - Under the ACA a migrant worker with a valid H2A work visa is eligible for coverage provided by the Connector
 - Lack of coverage makes accessing care much more difficult, though we work to find specialty care when needed, though occasionally have to transport patients greater distances to access that care than if they had comprehensive coverage. A comprehensive list of medication is only available through our contract pharmacies, otherwise we look for \$4 store sponsored programs