

BACKGROUND

- Mental health is an emerging topic of concern for physicians and public health officials, but there are still significant disparities among underserved North Carolinians.
- North Carolina consistently ranks in the top ten states with the largest number of enrollees in the H-2A Temporary Visa Program, which provides agricultural employment to foreign guest-workers.
- Eastern North Carolina is home to more migrant and seasonal farmworkers than other regions of the state.
- 52% of ENC migrant and seasonal farmworkers report depressive symptoms
- 16% of ENC migrant and seasonal farmworkers report symptoms consistent with anxiety
- Contributing factors may include cultural and social barriers, separation from family members, occupational and housing stressors, limited social support, and lack of access to adequate mental healthcare.

PROJECT METHODS

This longitudinal Service-Learning project was conducted in association with the NC Agromedicine Institute. The project was established in order to:

- 1) Develop a comprehensive list of mental health resources available to ENC farmworkers
- 2) Create informative tools to be shared with lay health workers and community partners
- 3) Create and disseminate health care provider education modules with regards to the unique mental health challenges faced by ENC farmworkers.

Project deliverables were peer reviewed by researchers and leaders in farmworker outreach. Provider education modules will be published to the NC Agromedicine education forum of Greensboro AHEC.

POTENTIAL IMPACT

This project is intended to be a call to action.

Future implications of this project include:

- Community-based participatory research addressing mental health status, barriers, solutions, etc.
- Targeted mental health interventions and programming.
- Resource development

REFERENCES

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COMMUNITY PARTNER



CONCLUSIONS

- The information collected during this project reflects the lack of behavioral health care infrastructure for migrant and seasonal farmworkers, as well as the growing emphasis on research and intervention.
- Community partners, researchers, and advocates are working to encourage routine mental health screenings and provide appropriate follow up..

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