Health Care Access among California’s Farmworkers

June 23, 2022

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Farmworkers in California are largely immigrants

- About half of immigrant farmworkers undocumented
- Many low-income
- May be affected by recent health policy changes
Policy changes may have improved coverage and access to care

- The Affordable Care Act (ACA/Obamacare)
- 2014: Medi-Cal expanded to most low-income adults
- 2015/2016: Employer mandate for large companies
- 2020: state Medi-Cal expansion to all young adults
Study goals and data sources

- Present farmworkers’ demographic changes
- Identify barriers to care
- Analyze how changes in insurance and barriers track with policies
- Document challenges during COVID-19 pandemic

- National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS)
- Expert interviews
Farmworkers are reducing their international travel for work

% traveling

0 20 40 60 80 100

1989 1991 1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2007 2009 2011 2013 2015 2017

Fiscal year

Documented Undocumented
Farmworkers are increasingly likely to live with their spouse in the US
Farmworkers are settling and aging, with consequences for health care needs
Most farmworkers have had health care in the past 2 years
Cost or lack of insurance is the biggest barrier to health care

![Bar chart showing the percentage of documented and undocumented individuals reporting barriers. The bars indicate that cost or lack of insurance is a significant barrier for both groups, with a higher percentage for undocumented individuals.](chart.png)
Medi-Cal expansion correlates with insurance gains for documented workers
Policy changes do not correlate with changes in coverage for undocumented workers
State Medi-Cal expansions do not affect most undocumented farmworkers
Ongoing challenges of COVID-19 pandemic

- Farmworkers continue their in-person, essential work
- Crowded living conditions and inability to isolate
- Tailored vaccination strategies needed
- Concerns about long COVID and disability
Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.