California employs an estimated 800,000 farmworkers. Most work at seasonal jobs—rarely holding full-time, year-round work—and earn an average annual income of less than $18,000. An estimated 90% of California farmworkers were born in Mexico and approximately 60% are unauthorized to work in the United States. While all essential workers put themselves at risk when they show up for work during the COVID-19 pandemic, farmworkers face additional risks because they lack critical social safety net support afforded to other members of society.

The COVID-19 Farmworker Study highlights how the current pandemic has exacerbated existing vulnerabilities farmworker communities endure in their living, working, and health conditions. California's farmworkers need us now more than ever to identify disparities and risks and allocate resources to keep them, their families, and our communities healthy so they are able to continue their frontline work.

**Farmworkers experience dramatic loss of work and income during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

- **Data:** Nearly half of the survey respondents (46%) reported decreased farm work time and subsequent income losses during the pandemic.
- **Recommendation:** Provide expanded income and safety net support for farmworkers, regardless of documentation status.

**Farmworkers lack healthcare access and experience fear using medical services.**

- **Data:** Slightly more than half (54%) reported costs, lack of insurance, and or lack of sick leave as significant barriers that would prevent them from accessing healthcare even if they were ill.
- **Recommendation:** Expand health care access and coverage for farmworkers and other undocumented workers, including prioritized access to free COVID-19 testing.

**Farmworkers are vigilant about COVID-19 prevention practices outside of the workplace.**

- **Data:** Nearly all workers (90%) reported taking precautions to protect their families when they arrive home from work.
- **Recommendation:** Provide extensive, culturally-relevant training and education to agricultural employers, supervisors, farmworkers (provided in indigenous languages) and trusted community-based organizations on workplace safety practices during COVID-19.

**Farmworkers report low numbers of employers providing masks and face coverings.**

- **Data:** Farmworkers reported that only 54% of worksites provided face-coverings.
- **Recommendation:** Ease the barriers for farmworkers to report COVID-19 related complaints and simplify access to support service; Mandate reporting and timely public release of data on COVID-19 cases by occupation and industry by both employers and county public health officials.

**Farmworkers have valuable suggestions to improve workplace COVID-19 prevention efforts.**

- **Data:** Farmworkers noted many opportunities for employers to improve workplace conditions for COVID-19 prevention.
- **Recommendation:** Strengthen Cal/OSHA enforcement & worksite auditing activities.
- **Recommendation:** Involve workers in the development and implementation of workplace COVID-19 safety plans.

**Farmworkers are systematically excluded from important safety-net programs.**

- **Data:** Farmworkers reported challenges to meet basic needs including the lack of childcare, food insecurity, exclusion from financial assistance programs.
- **Recommendation:** Involve trusted community-based organizations in the design and implementation of expanded safety-net programs for farmworkers, indigenous, and immigrant populations.

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