



Migrant Health Facts

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The Answer is:

★ 69 Cents and 24years





*How are the issues faced by
Migrant Workers relevant to me?*



“Eating is an agricultural act.”

-Wendell Berry, Writer and Farmer





Definitions: Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers?



★ **Seasonal Farmworkers:** An individual whose principal employment(51% of time) is in agriculture on a seasonal basis, who has been so employed within the last 24 months.



★ **Migrant Farmworker:** A migrant worker meets the same definition but establishes for the purposes of such employment a temporary abode.



★ U.S Code, Public Health Services Act, “Migrant Health.”



Farmworkers in the US

★ There are 2-3 million
Farmworkers in the US





Farmworkers in the US



The states with the highest farmworker population are California, Texas, Washington, Florida, Oregon, and North Carolina.



www.ncfarmworkers.org





Farmworkers in the US

Nearly 80% of Farmworkers are male.

Most are younger than 31 years of age

www.ncfarmworkers.org





Farmworkers in the US

- ★ 75% of Farmworkers in the United States, were born in Mexico.
- ★ 53% of Farmworkers are undocumented,
- ★ 25% are United States citizens, and
- ★ 21% are legal permanent residents.

www.ncfarmworkers.org





Farmworkers in the US



Immigrant farmworkers often leave their home countries to seek a better life for their families.



www.ncfarmworkers.org



Farmworkers in the US



Ironically almost six out of ten Farmworkers live apart from their immediate family members.



That is, the very act of Migration creates Social and systemic vulnerabilities.





Farmworkers in the US

Immigration to
the United States has
increased notably since what
policy change?

www.ncfarmworkers.org





Farmworkers in the US

Since the 1994 signing of NAFTA, over two million Mexican farmers have been driven out of business...

www.ncfarmworkers.org





Farmworkers in the US

- ★ Raises the question of how our US policy contributes to in-migration...

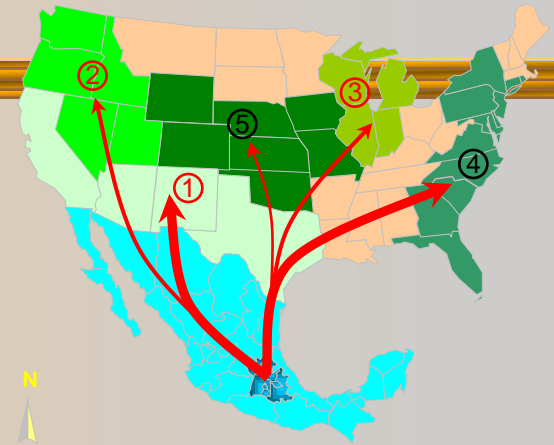
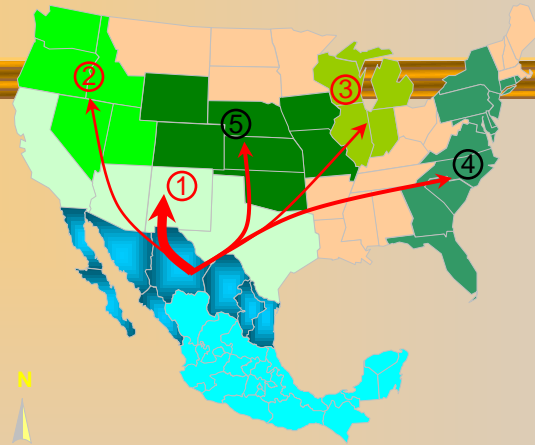
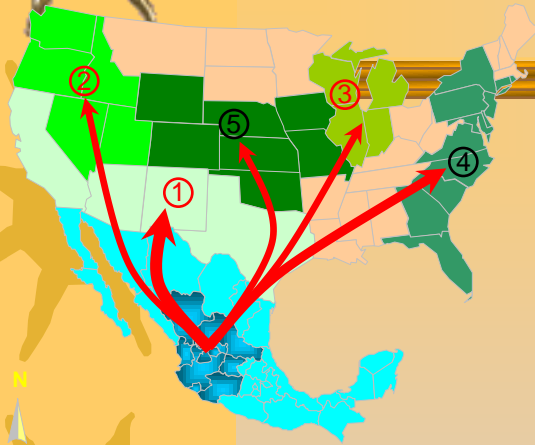


MIGRANT STREAMS FROM PLACE OF ORIGIN, 1997 - 2002

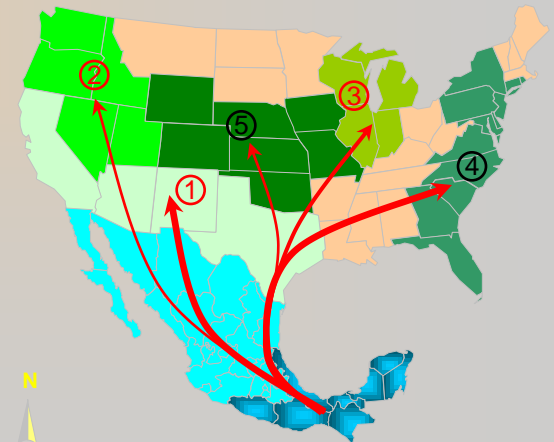
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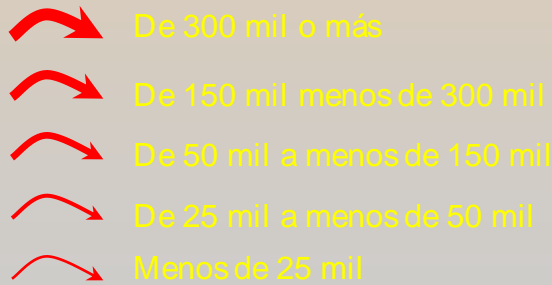
Centro



Sur - sureste



Flujo de migrantes por monto de participación



Región en Estados Unidos

1. Sudoeste primera fase
2. Sudoeste expansión
3. Grandes Lagos
4. Costa Este
5. Grandes Planicies



Migrant Workers in U.S.

★ 61% had incomes below the poverty level

★ Median income of individual farmworkers has remained less than 10,000 per year

National Agricultural Workers Survey, U.S. Department of Labor, March 2000





Health of MSFW's in US

★ **Dangerous work:**

Agriculture is consistently ranked as one of the three most dangerous occupations in the United States.

www.ncfarmworkers.org





Health of MSFW's in US



Pesticide risks: Farmworkers suffer from the highest rate of toxic chemical injuries and skin disorders Of any workers in the country, as well as significant rates of eye injuries.

www.ncfarmworkers.org



Health of MSFW's in US

Children of migrant farmworkers have higher rates of pesticide exposure, malnutrition and dental disease than the general population.

www.ncfarmworkers.org





Health of MSFW's in US



Children of migrant farmworkers are also less likely to be fully immunized than other children.





Health of MSFW's in US

Poor migrant housing conditions lead to increased prevalence of lead poisoning, respiratory illnesses, ear infections and diarrhea.

www.ncfarmworkers.org





Health of MSFW's in US

Only ten percent
of farmworkers report having
employer-provided
health insurance.

www.ncfarmworkers.org





Education Profile

The median highest grade of school completed by farmworkers is sixth grade.





Education Profile



Children in the fields: By the time a migrant child is 12, he/she may work in the fields between 16-18 hours per week, leaving little time for school work





Education Profile

Unstable schooling: The average migrant child may attend as many As three different schools in one year.

www.ncfarmworkers.org





Education Profile



High drop-out rates: A 1994 study showed that 60% of migrant Students in the United States Drop out of school



Health of MSFW's in US



Barriers to receiving health care include: Lack of transportation, limited hours of clinic service, cost of health care, limited or no interpreter service, and frequent relocation in search of farm work.



Farmworkers are not protected by sick leave and risk losing their jobs if they miss work.



www.ncfarmworkers.org



Migrant Workers

The risk of tuberculosis among farm workers was estimated to be six times greater than the general population of employed adults



(CDC, unpublished data, 1985-1989)



Migrant Farmworkers in U.S.

Approximately 800,000 children under the age of 18 work in agriculture in the US.

United Farmworkers estimates





Migrant Farmworkers in U.S.

According to the GAO, farm work is the most dangerous occupation in the US





Migrant Workers in U.S.

- ★ 100,000 Children are injured and 100 are killed in farm work yearly



-National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health



Migrant Workers and HIV

- ★ Mexican Health Officials estimate that 30% of Mexican HIV/AIDS cases are due to sexual contact with Migrant Workers returning from the US

(Menna, 2000)





MSFW's in Oregon





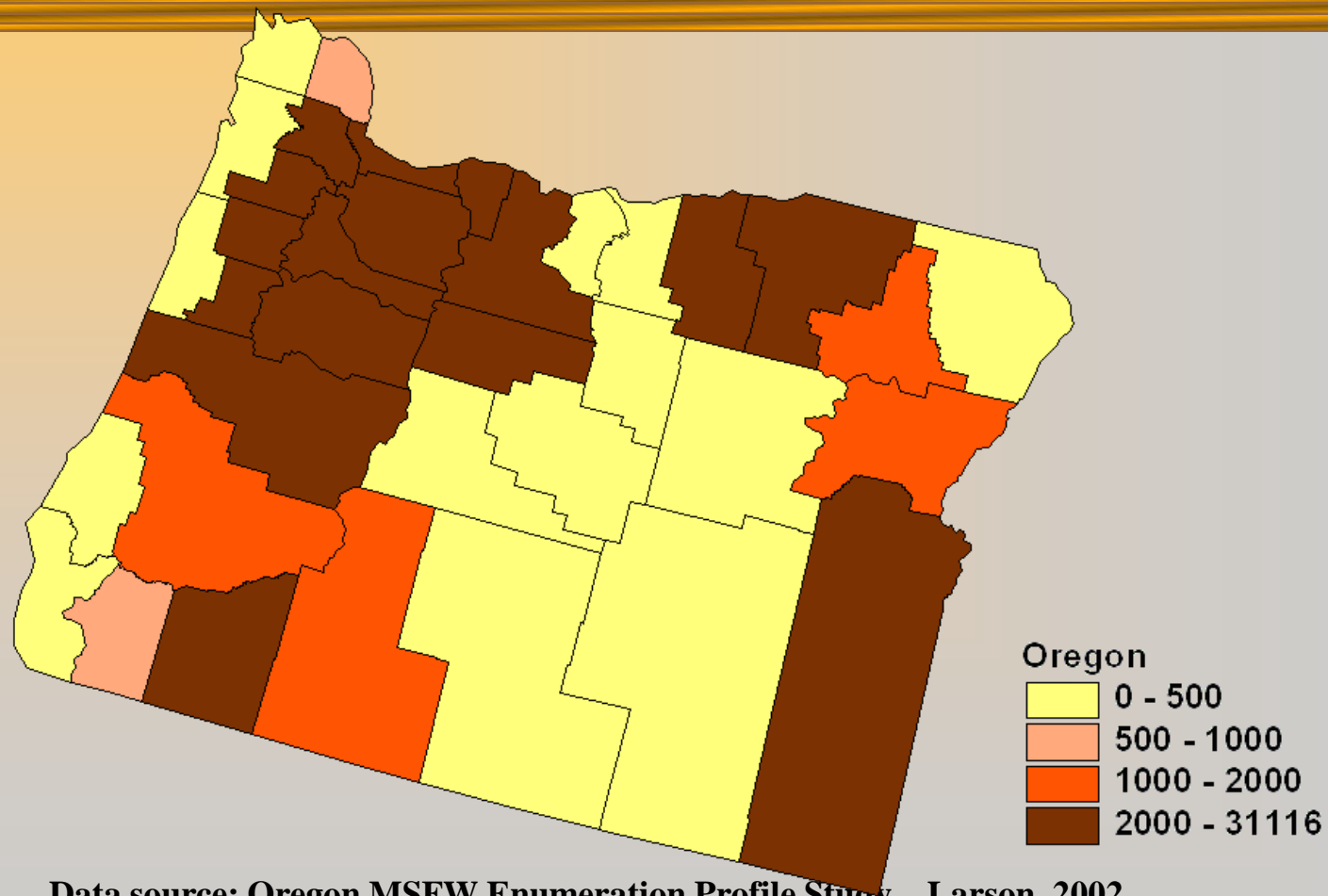
Migrant Workers in Oregon



- ★ There are 160,484 Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in Oregon



MSFW Total Population



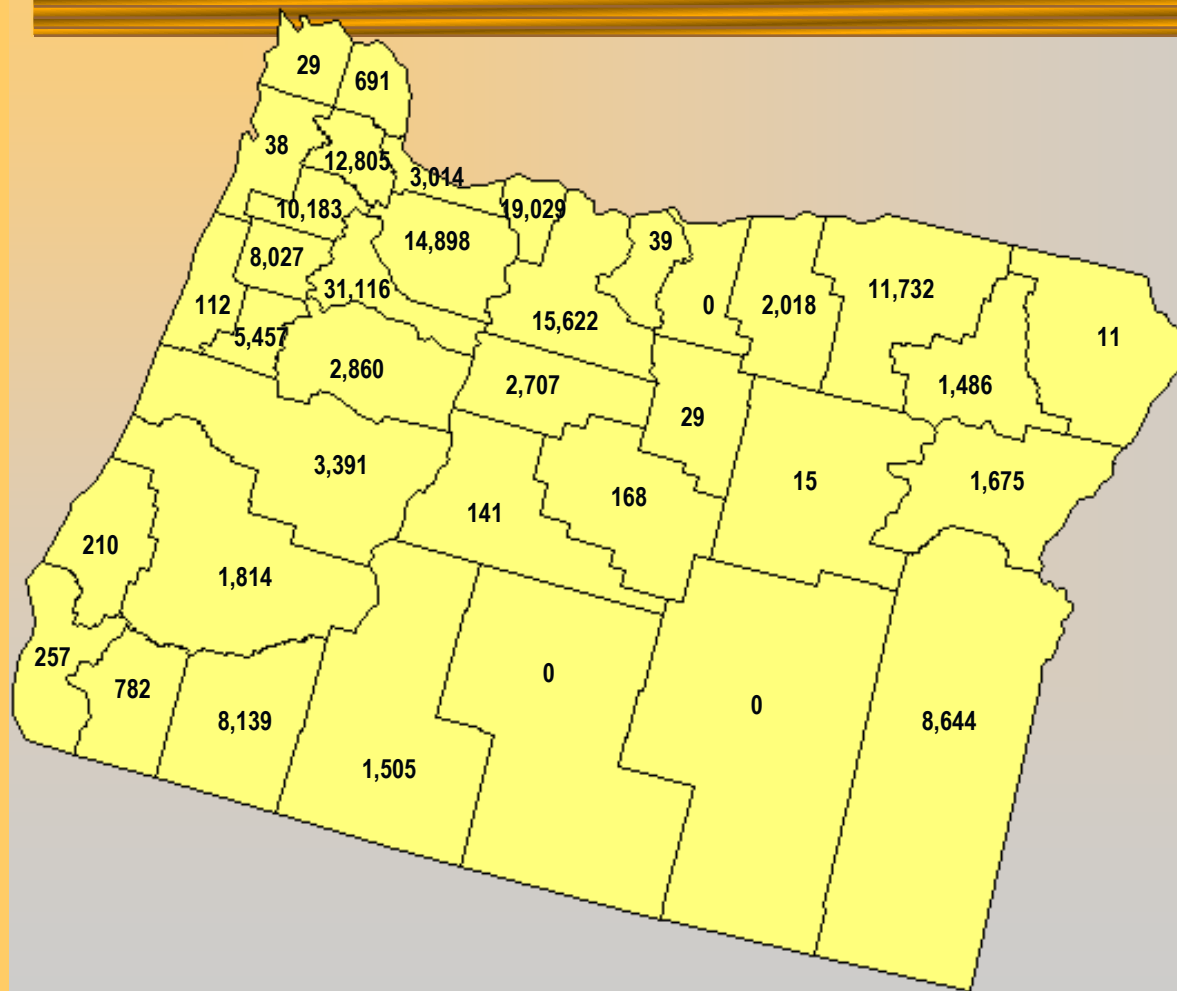
Data source: Oregon MSFW Enumeration Profile Study – Larson, 2002

GIS Mapping Courtesy of National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc.



MSFW Total Population

174,484





Profile of Migrant Workers in Oregon



★ Young (2/3 are under age 35)

★ 80% Male



★ Hispanic (90% Hispanic, mostly from Mexico)



-League of Women voters in Oregon report, Fall 2000



Profile of Migrant Workers in Oregon



★ McCauley et al (2001) conducted a survey of 166 adult farmworkers, 97 in Washington County and 69 in Hood River County: 43.3% of those surveyed in Washington County were indigenous.



Of the indigenous workers:

- 76.9% spoke Mixteco;
- 17.9% spoke Triqui; and
- 5.1% spoke Kanjobal



★ (Source: Lynn Stephen, Prof. at University of Oregon)



Indigenous Workers





Migrant Workers in Oregon

- ★ In Oregon, alone, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers are integral to creating over \$5.3 **billion** of annual agricultural economic activity. -2005 Oregon USDA





The Health of Agriculture in Oregon



★ In November of 2009, the USDA announced that Oregon's rate of "very low food security" had risen to 6.6%, making Oregon one of the five most "hungry" states in the country.

-2009 USDA



The Health of Migrant Workers in Oregon



★ More than 40% of all Farmworkers who visit health clinics have multiple and complex health problems.

★ According to a “Farmworkers in Oregon 2000 Report” published by the League of Women Voters



The Health of Oregon Farmworkers

- ★ Farmworkers' dental health is that of a third world population



-League of Women Voters, Farmworkers in Oregon Report, Fall 2000



The Health of Migrant Workers in Oregon



Obtaining regular prenatal care for Migrant mothers is difficult and many pregnancies are high risk



-Oregon CD Summary, Health Issue Among Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers, 1999





The Health of Migrant Workers in Oregon



★ Oregon until recently does not offer prenatal care to undocumented women....



Migrant Farmworkers in U.S.

- ★ Commonly reported health problems among Migrant Farmworkers and their children include: lower height and weight, respiratory disease, parasitic conditions, skin infection, chronic diarrhea, vitamin A deficiency, accidental injury, heat-related illness, and chemical poisoning

-Reducing Pesticide Exposure in Minority Families, OHSU



The Health of Migrant Workers in Oregon



Migrant Farmworkers
are among the most
disadvantaged,
medically indigent
persons and have the
poorest health of any
group in the US

-Reducing Pesticide Exposure in Minority
Families, OHSU





As a result...

★ The infant mortality rate among Migrant Workers is 25% higher than the general population

★ (Reducing Pesticide Exposure in Minority Families, OHSU, 2003)





Migrant Workers

★ Papas con Chile.....





Human Cost?

- ★ That is, how do these health disparities conserve, what is the cost of these social inequities on a human life?





Human Cost?

- ★ As a result of these combined health disparities and policies, the life expectancy of Migrant Farmworkers is only 49 years compared to the national average of 73

-Center for Disease Control, 1998





Human Cost?

★ What is the true cost of a ten pound bag of potatoes?





Migrant Farmworkers

★ Sixty Nine Cents and
24 years.....





Daniel Rothenberg Reminds Us:



“The apparent invisibility of production is a form of social forgetting, a politics of glossing over the real social and economic relations that allow for our high standard of living. Considering the world of farm laborers presents a powerful corrective to a society easily enamored with its own self-serving myths. Still, it is Americans’ deep rooted desire to believe in equality and the march of progress that makes farmworkers’ situation so poignant, creating a discomfort born of our country’s failure to live up to its own ideals.”