



Expanding Health Coverage for Farmworkers in California

This project is funded under the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Research in Transforming Health and Health Care Systems (RTHS) program, which supports policy-relevant, community-engaged research on current or potential policies to transform health and health care systems.

Objective

The study seeks to develop policy options for expanding Medi-Cal (Medicaid) and other coverage for farmworkers in California and nationally, and identify the barriers, opportunities, costs, health outcomes, and return on investment associated with each option.

Stakeholders

We will convene regional stakeholder groups in three agricultural regions Central California (San Joaquin/Coachella Valleys), Coastal Area (Salinas Valley to Ventura), and North State (Sonoma/Napa Valleys). The stakeholder groups will be composed of agricultural employers, farmworker representatives, community advocates, health plans (Medi-Cal and private), safety net providers, and health policy/data experts to develop and review options for health coverage. Key informant interviews with policy experts will also be conducted.

Goals | Timeline May 2022 - May 2023

- To develop and review options for health coverage for farmworkers, including coverage barriers related to immigration status, seasonal, migratory, and part-time workers, affordability, and need for preventive and ancillary services.
- To identify the costs, health outcomes, and return on investment associated with each proposal.

Deliverables

- Policy briefs
- Report of findings and recommendations
- Dissemination to farmworker communities, ag industry, policymakers, researchers and funders
- Capitol briefing

Research Team

Paul Brown, UC Merced (Principal investigator)

Joel Diringer, Diringer and Associates

Noe Paramo, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

Katie Heidorn, Insure the Uninsured Project

Marissa Kraynak, Insure the Uninsured Project

Melissa Renteria, UC Merced

Nimrat Sandhu, UC Merced