

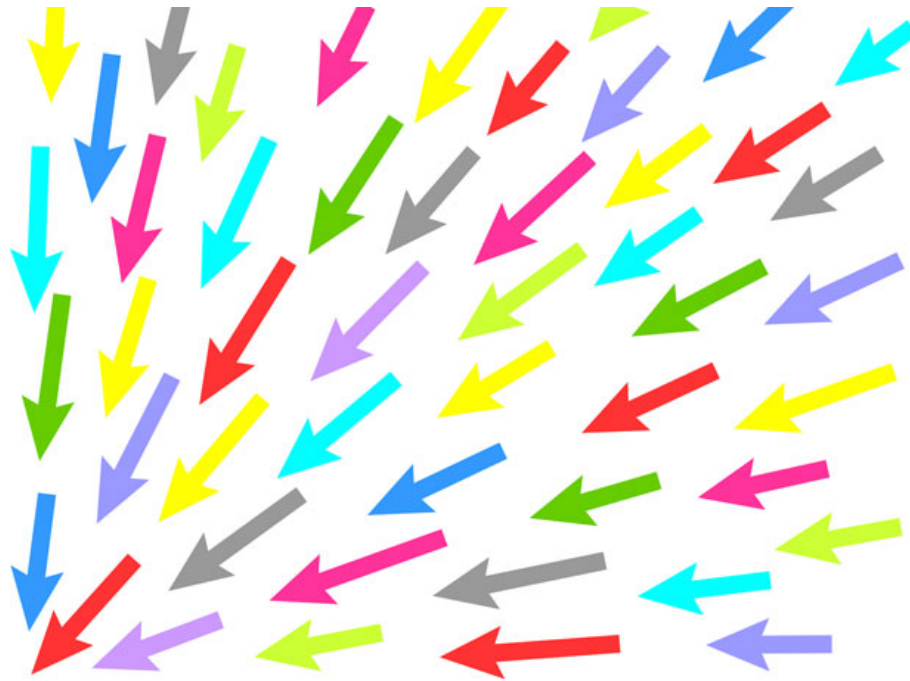


OHSUHealth

Notes From The Field

Coping with Climate Change for Agricultural Workers

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“Health means different things to different people, and communities improve health in all kinds of ways” NWHF - Oregon

Agricultural Health and Safety

- Agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries in the United States.

Resource: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/agricultural-health-and-safety#mental-health>



A safe, healthy workforce sets the stage for lifelong health

Agricultural Health and Safety

- **Injuries**
- Every day, about 100 agricultural workers suffer a lost-work-time injury.
- From 2008-2010, 50% of all hired crop worker injuries were classified as a sprain or strain.
- In 2014, an estimated 12,000 youth were injured on farms; 4,000 of these injuries were due to farm work.

Resource: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/agricultural-health-and-safety#mental-health>

Workers Health and Safety- Most Frequent Citations

Agricultural labor housing rules
(requirements not met for living
areas, facilities, or site)

Hazard Communication Standard
(requirements not met for written
program, safety data sheets,
employee information and
training)

Field Sanitation rules
(requirements not met for toilets,
hand washing facilities, potable
drinking water, and posting of the
notice)

Safety committees/safety meeting
rules (general requirements not
being met for committees or
meetings)

Worker Protection Standard
(requirements not being met for
cleaning or maintenance of
pesticide personal protective
equipment, information or
training)

Respiratory Protection Standard
(program requirements not met)

Flammable and combustible
liquids (requirements not met for
tanks and containers)

Annual inspection of fire
extinguishers not performed.

Inadequate control of hazardous
energy (lockout/tag out rules)

Training requirements for tractor
operators not met *Note:
Although not cited as often,
some of the most serious—
and expensive—citations were
for not meeting the general
requirements for providing
supervision and competency*

Climate Change and Health



Health Challenges

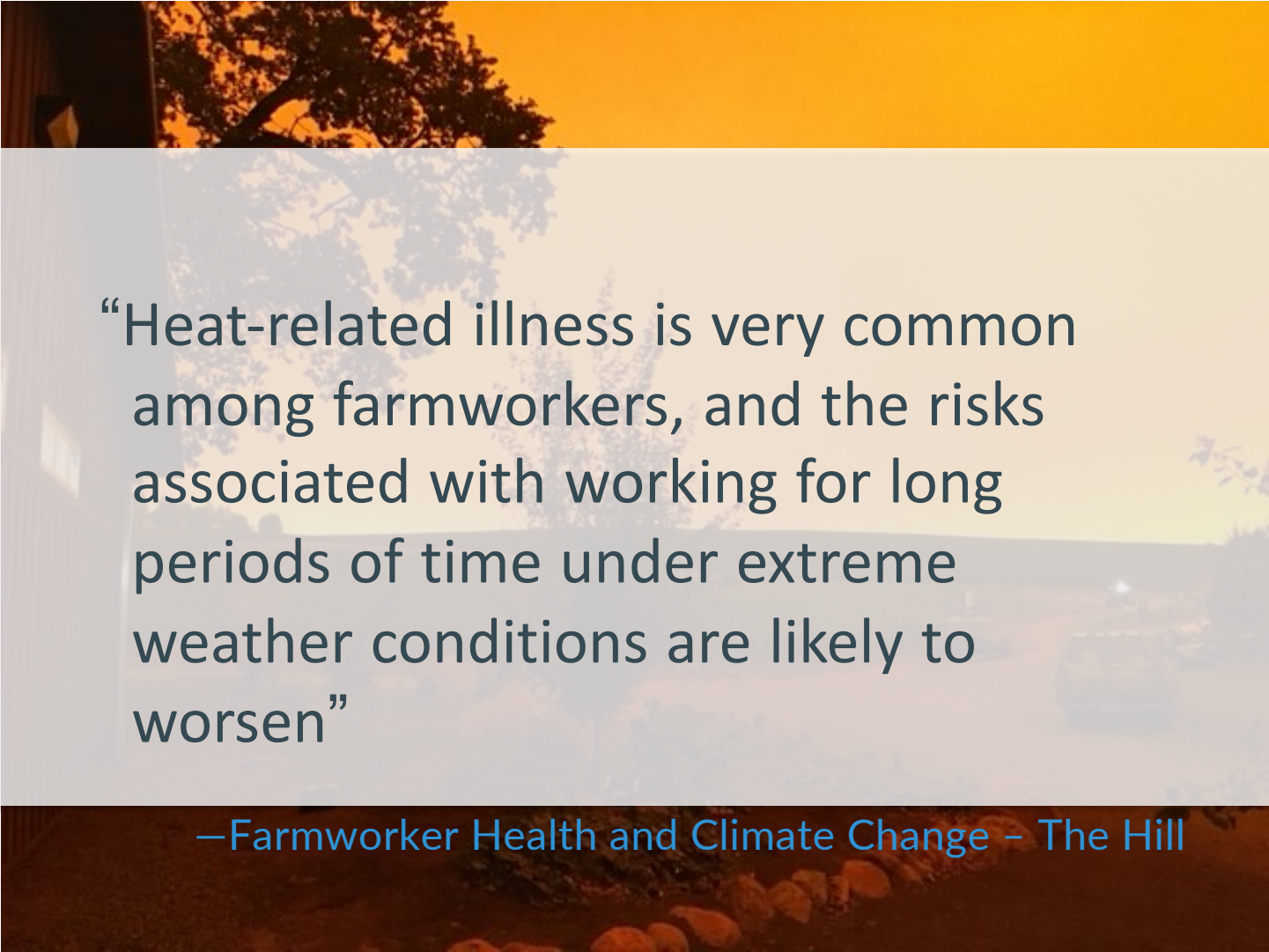
Health risks for farmers and farmworkers include:

- Exposure to farm chemicals, such as pesticides and fertilizers, as well as toxic gases
- **Exposure to high levels of dust, which can contain mold, bacteria, and animal droppings, among other things**
- Falls from ladders, farm equipment, grain bins, or other heights
- **Risk of heatstroke, frostbite, or hypothermia from working outside in extreme weather conditions. Exposure to ultraviolet rays from the sun, which can result in skin cancer**
- Joint and ligament injuries, which can result in arthritic conditions affecting mobility
- Exposure to loud noises and sounds from machinery and equipment which can result in hearing loss
- Injuries result from the use of both mechanized and non-mechanized equipment, as well as hand tools. Electrocution – touching power lines with equipment
- Risk of suffocation in a grain bin if a person is engulfed by the grain

Health Challenges

Health risks for farmers and farmworkers include:

- Urinary tract infections and other infections can occur from the lack of toilet facilities available while on the job.
- Higher susceptibility to infectious disease, such as tuberculosis, COVID-19 result from substandard living conditions combined with the barriers to accessing healthcare.
- **Stress from droughts, floods, pests, long hours**
- Stress from financial concerns, and feelings of isolation and frustration
- Mental health issues, including depression, are influenced by the cumulative effect of constant relocation, poverty, and stress
- Inadequate healthcare access- high deductible, catastrophic coverage only, no insurance, fear of using health care system due to immigration status
- Lack of transportation – no driver's license
- Housing



“Heat-related illness is very common among farmworkers, and the risks associated with working for long periods of time under extreme weather conditions are likely to worsen”

—Farmworker Health and Climate Change – The Hill

Acute and Chronic Illnesses

- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- Asthma
- Urinary track infections
- Heart disease
- Tuberculosis
- Musculoskeletal disorders (straining back/neck, tendinopathy and neuropathy)

Source: http://www.ncfh.org/uploads/3/8/6/8/38685499/fs-nawshealthfactsheet_jbs_approved.pdf

New Challenge

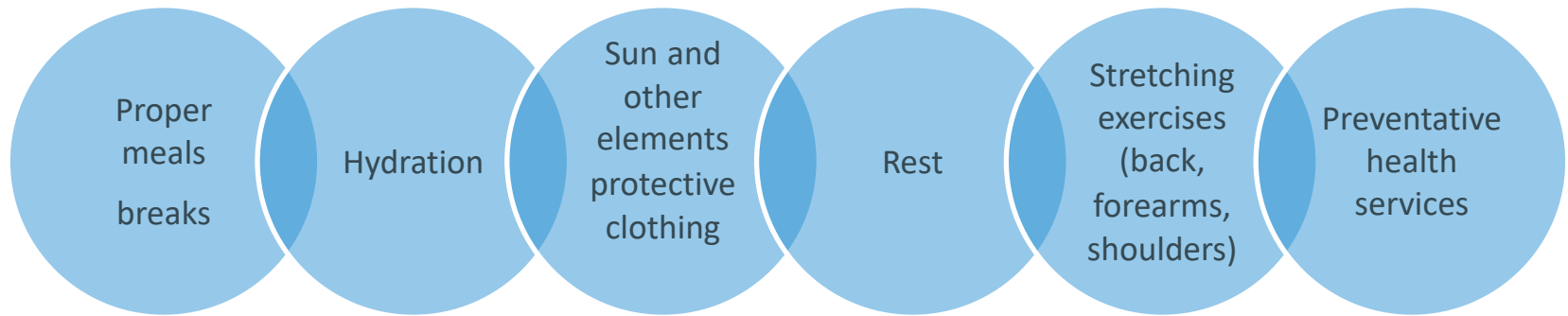
- COVID-19
 - Short- and long-term health issues post infection

Lasting Impact





Personal Protection





Social Justice Impact

- Commitment to the wellbeing of the workforce and the environment
- Early interventions
- Health promotion, education, and prevention
- Improve health outcomes
- Facilitate access to health care services
- Empower worker to take ownership of health care issues for self/family/others
- Provide health insurance coverage, teach how benefits work and how to access
- Build systems to encourage and support sustainable agricultural practices

A scenic landscape photograph featuring rolling green hills under a clear sky. A thick layer of white mist or fog fills the valley between the hills. In the foreground, a vineyard with rows of green grapevines is visible. A dense forest of evergreen trees sits on a hillside in the middle ground. A small blue-roofed building is nestled on a hill in the distance. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

CREATING A SAFE SPACE

Health and Safety

- Building power for advocacy and system change
- Community collaboration
 - Partnerships
- Cultivate success
 - ongoing education/training
- Bring voice
 - Develop skills and provide tools



Migrant Status Uncertainties



Graphic Source - <https://outreach-partners.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Silent-Crisis-2018.pdf>



Policy Changes

- Create policies that address the root causes of the issues.
- Update policies that protect occupational health standards.
 - Proposed Asuncion Valdivia Health Illness and Fatality Prevention Act.
- Work at the local level to protect the environment.
- Create a safe harbor for migrant and seasonal agricultural workers, including labor laws and fair wages.
- Establish accountability measures for employers.
- Support Dept. of Labor “Work Source” outreach services.

CLIMATE ACTION

- 
- PRESERVATION
 - CERTIFICATION
 - SOCIAL ISSUES
 - COMMUNITY

LIVE



TUALITY HEALTHCARE
An OHSU Partner

LIVE SHARED PRINCIPLES

- Consider the farm and winery as a whole system and take responsibility for the health and long-term viability of the whole
- Encourage biodiversity and protect wildlife habitat on the farm
- Promote soil stability, health and fertility
- Respect natural processes, reducing or eliminating use of synthetic inputs in the vineyard and the winery
- Conserve natural resources, including water and energy, in both vineyard and winery
- Protect the health and well being of workers in the vineyard and the winery, and the larger community

Upstream Approaches

Figure 2

Social Determinants of Health

Economic Stability	Neighborhood and Physical Environment	Education	Food	Community and Social Context	Health Care System
Employment	Housing	Literacy	Hunger	Social integration	Health coverage
Income	Transportation	Language	Access to healthy options	Support systems	Provider availability
Expenses	Safety	Early childhood education		Community engagement	Provider linguistic and cultural competency
Debt	Parks	Vocational training		Discrimination	Quality of care
Medical bills	Playgrounds	Higher education			
Support	Walkability				
Health Outcomes Mortality, Morbidity, Life Expectancy, Health Care Expenditures, Health Status, Functional Limitations					



Outreach Services Pledge

**When you make
a commitment,
you build hope.
When you keep it,
you build trust.**



Resources

- Migrant Clinicians Network <https://www.migrantclinician.org/>
- National Center for Farmworker Health <http://www.ncfh.org/health-centers.html>
- The Silent Crisis: How to Do Outreach in an Anti-Immigrant Climate <https://outreach-partners.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Silent-Crisis-2018.pdf>
- Kaiser Family Foundation kff.org | kaiserhealthnews.org
- Legal Aid Services of Oregon <https://oregonlawhelp.org/organization/farmworker-program-woodburn-office-legal-aid>
- <https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/DO/Farmworker/2018/05-24-18-AWHFT-Oregon-MSFW-Enumeration-Study.pdf>
- Deaths: Final Data for 2016. National Vital Statistics Report. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr67/nvsr67_05.pdf