

DEFINITIONS

Health

NCFHP embraces the World Health Organization’s definition of health, which declares that...

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

Environmental Health Risks

NCFHP abides by the Bureau of Primary Care’s definition which states that an assessment of environmental health risks includes...

“The detection and alleviation of unhealthful conditions associated with water supplies, sewage treatment, solid waste disposal, rodent and parasitic infestation, field sanitation, housing, and other environmental factors related to health (e.g., lead paint testing and abatement and pesticide management).”

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

The Program Coordinator along with his/her outreach team and other clinic staff conduct assessments of farmworker communities in their service area. There are three types of assessments that are carried out,

- 1) Individual Health Assessment
- 2) Environmental Health Risks Assessment
- 3) Farmworker Community Assessment

Individual Health Assessments and Environmental Health Risks Assessments may result in referrals for additional services, case management, and/or health education. Each activity requires that staff keep detailed documentation and follow-up with the farmworker and/or provider to assure services were received.

Individual Health Assessments

Health assessments are documented as a component of case management and health education services. The individual health assessment form is the screening tool to use when assessing farmworker health concerns, health education interests, and/or social needs. Health assessments are usually carried out when visiting a farmworker camp for the first time but may be completed during follow up visits, especially if conditions change or new residents arrive.

There are three types of age-specific health assessments forms, the Pediatric Health Assessment (ages 0 - 11), the Adolescent Health Assessment (ages 12 - 17), and the Adult Health Assessment (ages 18 and up). Additional health screenings may also be utilized such as the Advanced Health Screening questions (for mental health, substance abuse, etc.) and the Pesticide Reporting Form if deemed necessary by the outreach staff. These forms can be downloaded from our website at www.ncfhp.org.

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Programs that provide medical services to farmworkers that are funded through the North Carolina Farmworker Health Program may also provide additional medical services and screening at camps, including lab work, vaccinations, heart health screening, visioning screening, mental health screening, etc. Outreach staff may be able to receive training at their health centers to perform these screenings.

For more information on how to complete the health assessment and encounter forms, contact NCFHP at (919) 733-2040 and ask for a farmworker health consultant.

When conducting individual health assessments/screenings, the outreach team made up of program coordinators, outreach staff and other health professionals that visit farmworker camps will...

- Strive to secure a private location to conduct individual health assessments and/or screenings. It is generally better to screen farmworkers away from the group, to provide for more privacy and confidentiality in case there is a serious problem.
- Complete a basic health assessment using age-specific NCFHP Health Assessment forms, whether child, adolescent, or adult, as a guide to evaluate physical health, socio-economic, and health information needs of each farmworker and/or dependent.
- Probe further to responses for certain health conditions, depending on farmworker responses to the basic health assessment. Particular attention must be given to diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma, current symptoms of tuberculosis or sexually transmitted diseases, pesticide exposure, substance abuse, domestic violence, and depression.
- Make referrals, provide case management, and/or share health information to address health concerns and/or social needs identified by farmworkers. Follow-up visits are set up, as needed.
- Enter all information from health assessments and encounter forms into FHASES within two weeks of having conducted an initial contact.
- Utilize the Advanced Health Screening questions if the general health assessment form triggers a need for more information.

If the clinic has a large and established outreach program, health providers such as doctors, physician assistants, and nurses may accompany outreach staff to farmworker camps to conduct health screenings, give vaccines, and/or care for minor medical problems. Health screenings may include measure of height, weight, and body mass index (BMI); blood pressure check; HIV testing and counseling; and/or vision tests. At some sites, the outreach coordinators conduct these screenings and refer to health services. Mental health professionals may assist with substance abuse, domestic violence, and other mental health screenings.

Non-medical program coordinators and outreach staff should refrain from making clinical diagnoses and/or recommending medications to farmworkers. All outreach staff should review NCFHP's protocols with your supervisor to ensure that they are in accordance with your center's protocols. See **Chapter 5: Responding to Farmworker Health Conditions: A Guide for Outreach Workers.**

Environmental Health Risks Assessment

Outreach staff contributes to the reduction of environmental threats to a farmworker's health by being vigilant when visiting farmworker camps.

When visiting farmworker homes/fields, the outreach worker will...

- Actively scan site for environmental risks/threats.
- Document findings in the site register.
- Inform the farmworker and/or grower of health risks/threat and discuss ways to improve conditions.
- Report suspected violations to the Department of Labor if deemed an immediate threat to the residents' health and wellbeing, including no drinking water, no working shower, raw sewage, unreasonable amounts of garbage, fire hazards, signs of rodents, and/or no heat in winter. Reports can also be made to the health department and/or to the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC).

The publication "Introduction to Migrant Housing Inspections in North Carolina" and the brochure called "A Healthy Camp" (Un Campamento Saludable) developed by the North Carolina Department of Labor are helpful tools to share with farmworkers.

Outreach staff must inform farmworkers of environmental risks/threats and how working and living conditions contribute to their health and mental well-being. Staff may help farmworkers gain skills that help them determine:

- What is the problem?
- How does it affect them?
- Where they can go for help?
- How they can learn more about how to prevent and/or handle the situation in the future?

Refer to another Agency or Provide the Service?

Since the health or environmental risk assessment may result in referrals to other agencies, additional case management, and/or health education, it is important for staff to understand the difference between giving referral information and case management.

First and foremost, program staff should have a referral network where farmworkers can be sent. Staff is encouraged to spend time, preferably during the off-season, building their referral network of individuals and agencies that can help provide services that meet the needs of farmworkers in your service area.

Your referral network may include primary care, dental, mental health, and other specialty care providers willing to serve farmworkers. The network may also include social service, day care

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centers, and community service organizations that would provide services directly to your farmworker patients.

Secondly, if a referral is made:

- Note the referral information on the farmworker's Health Assessment form
- Provide farmworker with information about the referral agency, contact name and number, and service that will be rendered or set up the appointment for the farmworker and/or assist with interpretation and/or transportation services, particularly if the agency the farmworker is being referred to is not accessible.
- Follow-up on the referral either with the farmworker and/or service agency, if needed

One way to identify healthcare resources in your community is to participate in a county level community assessment. Local Health Departments are the county agency responsible for community assessments.

Farmworker Community Assessment

Every two years, county health departments carry out Community Health Assessments for their service area. Community Assessments are used to provide insight on the county residents and the issues that affect their health and quality of life. Findings are used to inform delivery of health services and to inform the development of health programs. For more information about Community Health Assessment, visit the website for the State Center for Health Statistics at <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/about/cha.html>.

Program Coordinators are encouraged to contact the person in charge of the community assessment to participate in the assessment process and/or share information about farmworkers for inclusion in the document.

In addition to collaborating with local health departments, program coordinators and staff may find it beneficial to conduct their own assessment of the farmworker community in their service area. This assessment may be done during the off-season, but may also be conducted throughout peak-season, depending on the type of information being gathered.

A Farmworker Community Assessment may include the following:

- A **geographic description** of your service area to include maps and a description of land features, commercial locations, major employers, schools, churches, health facilities, and other key entities.
- **Demographic information** of farmworkers to include population count, population composition regarding race, ethnicity, gender, age, marital status, languages spoken, housing conditions, employment patterns, migration patterns, educational level, and socio-economic status

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- **Health conditions** to include top health concerns, social needs, mental health issues, common chronic conditions, morbidity and mortality rates, health services utilized most during the season, etc.
- **Social, economic, and political characteristics** informing on farmworker daily living conditions, agricultural trends, the political environment and /or agendas affecting farmworkers in your area,
- **Directory of community resources** to include healthcare and social support resources that may already or have the possibility of participating in your referral network. Include information about the type of services rendered, level of accessibility and affordability, language capacity, transportation services, etc. The directory may also include area civic groups, churches, non-profit service agencies, farmworker advocacy groups, etc.
- **Documentation of farmworker experiences** as a result of satisfaction surveys, feedback forms, focus group sessions, provider reports, staff observations, community forum, and farmworker testimonials.
- **Recommendations** to inform service agencies and/or agency action plans for the season.

A farmworker community assessment can be simple or complex. Consider the resources available in terms of labor and time. A simple design can take two to four weeks and use one to three people. A quality needs assessment can be performed with limited resources. Inform health center staff of your goal and describe your purpose. They may offer assistance or refer you to a specific agency, committee, or college for help and ideas. Once you have determined the number of people committed to the task, set up a time frame. Avoid spending so much time on the assessment that not enough time is left for the outreach program itself.

National statistics and data from farmworker studies in various parts of the country may also be of interest for your description of general trends in migrant health. The National Center for Farmworker Health (www.ncfh.org) and the Migrant Clinician's Network (www.migrantclinician.org) have publications available on their websites regarding migrant health conditions. While these studies can provide important information, they may not reflect the precise health needs of farmworkers in your area.

DOCUMENTATION

When conducting individual health assessments, the program manager, outreach staff, and/or medical personnel must ...

- Complete an age-specific individual health assessment form for each farmworker
- Enter information from health assessments and encounter form into **FHASES within two weeks of initial contact**
- Document findings from environmental scan in the site register
- Maintain an updated list/directory of referral network

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

The Program Coordinator, as well as staff assigned to outreach, may use the following questions to evaluate their performance in accordance to NCFHP's expectations and standards.

- Was an age appropriate health assessment form completed for each farmworker and/or his/her dependents?
- Were health education interests assessed?
- Were question(s) related to socio-economic needs asked?
- Were all questions completed for individual health assessment?
- Were environmental risks noted, if present? Was action taken?
- Did the # of user or encounters meet/or exceed the user encounter goal set with NCFHP?
- Was general statement made to clients regarding importance of privacy to discuss farmworker needs/concerns?
- Has the information from the health assessment and enabling encounter form been entered into FHASES within 2 weeks of encounter?