

PROMOTING HIV/AIDS PREVENTION
AMONG CAMPESINOS AND THEIR
FAMILIES ALONG THE US-MEXICO
BORDER



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FJIF's FOCUS

- FARMWORKER DEMOGRAPHICS
- PROJECT NEED
- PROJECT DESCRIPTION
- ACHIEVEMENTS & LIMITATIONS



FARMWORKER DEMOGRAPHICS

- An estimated 4.17 million farmworkers and their dependents live in the U.S.
- Approximately 19% are women & an estimated 300,000 are adolescents
- Nearly 80% are Hispanics of which many do not speak English
- Others are Afro-Americans, Haitian, West Indian, Southeast Asian & Native American
- 60% live in poverty



NEED FOR THE PROJECT

The National Commission to Prevent Infant Mortality estimates a rate of HIV/AIDS infection among Farmworkers 10 times the US national average

Separate case studies report a seroprevalence rate among Farmworkers ranging from 2.5% (NC), 5% (FL) to 13% (SC)

A Mexican study in Michoacan found that 1/3 of HIV + individuals had worked in the US, specifically California

HIV/AIDS RISK FACTORS IN FARMWORKER COMMUNITIES

- Months of separation from families & homes often result in unprotected sex with prostitutes and/or other males
- Myths of machismo
- Alcohol and/or illegal drug abuse
- Practice of sharing needles for vitamins or antibiotics
- High rates of STDs
- Limited access to health care
- Cultural/religious taboos; Little acceptance of Condoms

LACK OF HEALTH CARE

- Less than 10% of Farmworkers have private medical insurance
- 20% receive Medicaid benefits
- Only 17% of the eligible Farmworker population is served by public funded migrant health clinics



CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO LACK OF HEALTH CARE

- Majority of Farmworkers are poor
- Many reside in remote rural areas often under served by low-cost health providers (especially culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate)
- Unfamiliarity with services available in the communities they travel to for work