

**California Findings from  
the National Agricultural  
Workers Survey (NAWS)  
2015–2019:**

A Demographic and  
Employment Profile of  
California Farmworkers

Research Report No. 15

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January 2022

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is the fifteenth in a series of Department of Labor publications on the demographic and employment characteristics of hired agricultural workers and the third report on California farmworkers. It examines recent information on the demographic and employment characteristics of California farmworkers who perform crop work. The report focuses on findings for the period covering fiscal years 2015 through 2019. Five years of data (fiscal years 2015–2019) were pooled to achieve large enough sample sizes and small relative standard errors for analysis. These findings are based on data that were collected from face-to-face interviews with 3,582 California crop farmworkers through the U.S. Department of Labor’s National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS) between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2019. The sample does not include farmworkers with H-2A visas. The Employment and Training Administration (Department of Labor) is currently assessing the feasibility of including H-2A farmworkers in future survey waves.

### ***Birthplace, Ethnicity, and Race***

Eighty-four percent of California’s hired farmworkers interviewed in fiscal years 2015–2019 were born in Mexico, 12 percent were born in the United States, 4 percent were born in Central America, and the remainder originated from various other regions, including South America, the Caribbean, Asia, and the Pacific Islands. Ninety-six percent of California farmworkers were Hispanic. Among U.S.-born workers, 65 percent were Hispanic. In terms of race, less than two-fifths of crop workers self-identified as White (16%), and eight in ten categorized their race with an open-ended “other” response (84%). Nine percent of California crop workers were identified as indigenous.

### ***Work Authorization and Number of Years in the United States***

U.S. citizens (by birth or naturalization), lawful permanent residents (green card holders), and those whose visas include work authorization can legally work in the United States. Half of California farmworkers in 2015–2019 were authorized to work in the United States (49%): 19 percent were U.S. citizens, 29 percent were lawful permanent residents, and 2 percent had work authorization through some other visa program. Among citizens, 64 percent were born in the United States and 36 percent were naturalized citizens.

On average, foreign-born farmworkers in California first came to the United States 21 years before being interviewed. Most respondents had been in the United States at least 10 years (84%), with 66 percent arriving 15 years or more prior to their NAWS interview. Two percent<sup>1</sup> of foreign-born farmworkers were in their first year in the United States. Eighty-seven percent of farmworkers were settled workers and 13 percent were migrants.

### ***Demographics and Family Composition***

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<sup>1</sup> Estimates with relative standard errors (RSE) higher than 30 percent are identified throughout this report. The RSE is calculated by dividing the standard error of the estimate (mean or percentage) by the estimate itself. Estimates with RSEs greater than 30 percent but no more than 50 percent are published, but should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50 percent are considered statistically unreliable and are suppressed. The two percent of foreign-born farmworkers who were in their first year in the United States had an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

Males comprised 69 percent of the California hired crop labor force in 2015–2019. Farmworkers had an average age of 40. Thirty-six percent of workers were under the age of 35, 48 percent were ages 35 to 54, and 16 percent were age 55 or older.

Sixty-three percent of California farmworkers were married, and 58 percent were parents. At the time they were interviewed, farmworker parents with minor children living with them had an average of two minor children. Among these parents, 70 percent had one or two minor children in their household, 20 percent had three minor children, and 10 percent had four or more minor children.

Thirty-two percent of California farmworkers were living apart from all nuclear family members at the time of their interview (i.e., were unaccompanied). Seventy-three percent of these unaccompanied workers were single without children, 22 percent were parents, and 5 percent had a spouse but no children.

### ***Language and Education***

Beginning in 2018, the NAWS allowed respondents to specify that they spoke comfortably in more than one language. In 2015–2017, 89 percent of California farmworkers said that Spanish was the language in which they are most comfortable conversing, 8 percent said English was, and 3 percent<sup>2</sup> reported an indigenous language. In 2018–2019, 80 percent said that Spanish was the language in which they are most comfortable conversing, 7 percent<sup>3</sup> said English was, 5 percent<sup>4</sup> said both Spanish and English, and 7 percent<sup>5</sup> said more than one language. In rating their English language skills, 35 percent of farmworkers reported that they could not speak English “at all,” 49 percent said they could speak English “a little” or “somewhat,” and 16 percent said they could speak English “well.” In terms of their ability to read English, 47 percent of workers reported they could not read English “at all,” 38 percent said they could read English “a little” or “somewhat,” and 15 percent said that they could read English “well.”

The average level of formal education completed by California farmworkers was eighth grade. Three percent of workers reported that they had no formal schooling and 43 percent reported that they completed the sixth grade or lower. Twenty-three percent of workers said they completed grade 7, 8, or 9, and 24 percent said they completed grade 10, 11, or 12. Seven percent of workers reported completing some education beyond high school. Twenty-five percent of workers reported having taken at least one adult education class in the United States.

### ***Housing***

Sixty-seven percent of California farmworkers interviewed in 2015–2019 reported that they lived in housing they rented from someone other than their employer; 21 percent of workers said they lived in a home owned by themselves or a family member; and 2 percent said they paid rent for housing provided by the government, a charity, or other organization. Nine percent of workers lived in employer-provided housing: 5 percent received it free of charge, 3 percent paid rent

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<sup>2</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

<sup>3</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

<sup>4</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

<sup>5</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

either directly or via payroll deduction, and 1 percent had other arrangements with their employers.

Fifty-seven percent of California farmworkers reported living in detached, single-family houses, 12 percent said they lived in mobile homes, 27 percent lived in apartments, and 4 percent lived in various other types of housing including duplexes or triplexes, dormitories or barracks, and motels or hotels. Thirty-five percent of farmworkers lived in “crowded” dwellings, defined as housing units in which the number of persons per room was greater than one.

### ***Distance to Work and Transportation***

When asked how far their current farm job was from their current residence, 7 percent of California workers reported that they lived where they worked, 76 percent lived fewer than 25 miles from their current farm job, and 16 percent lived between 25 and 49 miles from work. Sixty-five percent of workers drove a car to work, 12 percent rode with others, 6 percent walked or took public transportation, and 14 percent rode with a “raitero.”<sup>6</sup>

### ***Job Characteristics and Employment History***

In 2015–2019, 72 percent of California farmworkers were employed directly by growers and 28 percent were employed by farm labor contractors. At the time of interview, 25 percent of farmworkers were working in vegetable crops, 54 percent in fruit and nut crops, and 14 percent in horticulture. Another 5 percent were working in field crops. Twenty-five percent of farmworkers were performing pre-harvest tasks, 23 percent were harvesting crops, 19 percent were performing post-harvest activities, and 33 percent were performing technical production tasks.

In the 12 months prior to being interviewed, California respondents spent an average of 37 weeks employed in farm work and performed an average of 225 days of farm work. Workers worked an average of 5 days per week for their current employer and reported an average of 47 work hours in the previous week. The majority of workers said that their basis for pay was an hourly wage (86%), and workers reported earning an average of \$12.13 per hour. Forty-six percent of farmworkers said that they were covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) if they were to lose their current job, 78 percent said they would receive workers’ compensation if they were injured at work or became ill as a result of their work, and 31 percent reported that their employer offered health insurance for injury or illness suffered while not on the job.

Seventy-six percent of California workers reported having worked for only 1 farm employer in the previous 12 months, 16 percent worked for two employers, and 8 percent had three or more farm employers. At the time of interview, farmworkers had been employed by their current farm employer for an average of eight years. The majority of farmworkers interviewed in 2015–2019 expected to continue doing farm work for more than five years, or as long as possible (83%).

In the year prior to their NAWS interview, California workers spent an average of nine weeks living in the United States but not working, and two weeks abroad. Seventeen percent of farmworkers held at least one non-crop work job in the previous 12 months, and those who held a non-crop job worked an average of 23 weeks in non-crop production employment.

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<sup>6</sup> “Raitero,” derived from “ride,” is the Spanish word for a person who charges a fee for providing a ride to work.

### ***Income and Assets***

California farmworkers' mean and median personal income in the previous year was in the range of \$20,000 to \$24,999. Nine percent of workers said their total personal income was less than \$10,000, 24 percent said they had personal incomes of \$10,000 to \$19,999, 37 percent had personal incomes of \$20,000 to \$29,999, and 21 percent reported that their total personal income was \$30,000 or more. Five percent of workers reported that they did not work at all during the prior calendar year.

California farmworkers' mean and median total family income the previous year was in the range of \$25,000 to \$29,999. Four percent of workers said that they did not work in the prior year, 19 percent said that their total family income the prior year was less than \$20,000, another 31 percent had a family income of \$20,000 to \$29,999, and 44 percent had a family income of \$30,000 or more. Twenty-three percent of farmworkers had family incomes below the poverty level.

Three-quarters of California farmworkers stated that they owned or were buying at least one asset in the United States (76%). The most common assets were a vehicle (reported by 70% of workers) or a home (reported by 35% of workers).

In 2015–2019, 20 percent of California farmworkers reported that someone in their household received a benefit from at least one contribution-based program, including disability insurance, UI, or Social Security. Seventeen percent of households received payments from UI, 3 percent received Social Security payments, and 2 percent received payments from disability insurance. Sixty-three percent of farmworkers reported that they or someone in their household used at least one type of public assistance program in the previous two years. The most common programs utilized were Medicaid (52%), public health clinics (16%), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, 16%), and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC, 16%).

### ***Health Care***

Fifty-eight percent of California farmworkers interviewed in 2015–2019 reported that they had health insurance. Among them, 31 percent said their employer provided the insurance, 54 percent reported that they had insurance provided by the government, 6 percent said that they or their spouse paid for insurance themselves, 4 percent reported that they had insurance under their spouse's employer's plan, 2 percent reported that they were covered by a family member other than the spouse, such as a parent, and 6 percent reported that some other entity paid for their insurance.<sup>7</sup> Among workers with spouses, 67 percent said their spouse had health insurance. Among workers with minor children, 91 percent reported that all of their children had health insurance, 3 percent reported that some of their children had health insurance, and 5 percent<sup>8</sup> reported that none of their children had health insurance.

Sixty-five percent of California farmworkers used a health care provider in the United States sometime in the last two years. The last time they visited a health care provider, 38 percent of workers went to a private medical doctor's office or private clinic, 38 percent said they visited a

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<sup>7</sup> Percentages sum to more than 100 percent because respondents could select all that apply.

<sup>8</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

community health center or migrant health clinic, 15 percent saw a dentist, 6 percent went to a hospital, and 2 percent went to some other health care provider.

Twenty-five percent of California farmworkers paid for their last health care visit out of their own pockets, 32 percent said that they had Medicaid or Medicare, 18 percent reported that the cost was covered by health insurance provided by their employer, and 8 percent said the majority of the cost was covered by health insurance that they or their family had purchased themselves. An additional 10 percent of workers stated that they went to a public clinic that did not charge for the visit; 3 percent reported that they used some combination of sources to pay, they were covered by workers' compensation, or that they were billed for service but did not pay; and the remaining 4 percent provided a variety of other responses. The most common difficulty farmworkers said they faced when they needed to access health care was that health care visits were too expensive (reported by 26% of respondents).

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents information on the characteristics and work patterns of farmworkers who perform seasonal tasks to produce perishable crops in California. The report focuses on findings for fiscal years 2015 through 2019. Five years of data (fiscal years 2015–2019) were pooled to achieve large sample sizes and small relative standard errors for analysis. The findings in this report are based on data that were collected from face-to-face interviews with 3,582 California crop farmworkers through the U.S. Department of Labor’s National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS) between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2019. It is a subsample of the NAWS national data. Its intended audience includes policy makers, researchers, agricultural employers, employer associations, and organizations providing services to farmworkers.

The NAWS is an employment-based, random-sample survey of U.S. crop workers that collects demographic, employment, and health data in face-to-face interviews. The survey began in Federal Fiscal Year 1989; since then over 70,000 workers have been interviewed. The primary purposes of the NAWS are to monitor the terms and conditions of agricultural employment and assess the conditions of farmworkers. The survey also generates information for various Federal agencies that oversee farmworker programs.

The NAWS is a survey of hired workers who are currently employed in crop and crop-related work. To be interviewed, workers must be hired by an eligible establishment and working at an eligible task. Eligible establishments are those classified in the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) as Crop Production (NAICS code 111) or as Support Activities for Crop Production (NAICS code 1151). NAICS 111 comprises establishments such as farms, orchards, groves, greenhouses, and nurseries that are primarily engaged in growing crops, plants, vines, or trees and their seeds. NAICS 1151 includes establishments primarily engaged in providing support activities for growing crops. Examples of support activities include supplying labor, aerial dusting or spraying, cotton ginning, cultivating services, farm management services, planting crops, and vineyard cultivation services.

Eligible tasks include work in all phases of crop production (pre-harvest, harvest, and post-harvest), as well as supervising workers, operating machinery, and packing crops. Workers who pack crops, however, are interviewed only if the packing facility at which they are employed is on or adjacent to the sampled crop producer, and the facility is owned by and primarily packs crops for that producer.

The NAWS sampling universe does not include:

- persons employed at eligible establishments who do not perform crop-related work, such as secretaries or mechanics, unless such workers also perform crop-related work; and
- crop workers with an H-2A visa (a temporary-employment visa for foreign agricultural workers).

The NAWS is unique for its broad coverage of the characteristics of hired crop workers and their dependents and its nearly year-round interviewing schedule. Data are collected throughout the year, over three cycles, to reflect the seasonality of agricultural production and employment. The NAWS differs from many Federal worker surveys in that: 1) it is an establishment survey

(workers are sampled at their workplaces); 2) only currently employed persons are sampled; and 3) data is collected through face-to-face interviews with farmworkers.

The NAWS sample includes both migrant and seasonal crop workers. The use of an employer-based sample rather than a household-based sample increases the likelihood that migrant workers will be interviewed in the NAWS. Multi-stage sampling is implemented to account for seasonal and regional fluctuations in the level of farm employment. To capture seasonal fluctuations in the agricultural work force, the sampling year is divided into three interviewing cycles. For each cycle, there are six levels of selection:

- region;
- single counties or groupings of counties called farm labor areas (FLA), which constitute the primary sampling unit;
- county;
- ZIP Code region;
- employer; and
- respondent.

A full description of the survey's sampling design is available in the *Statistical Methods of the National Agricultural Workers Survey* ([https://www.doleta.gov/naaws/methodology/docs/NAWS\\_Statistical\\_Methods\\_AKA\\_Supporting\\_Statement\\_Part\\_B.pdf](https://www.doleta.gov/naaws/methodology/docs/NAWS_Statistical_Methods_AKA_Supporting_Statement_Part_B.pdf)).

The NAWS has benefited from collaboration with multiple Federal agencies, which continue to share in the design of the questionnaire. Information provided through the NAWS informs the policies and programs of the many Federal government agencies that protect and provide services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their dependents.

### **Topics Covered**

This report presents information collected from face-to-face interviews with 3,582 California crop workers interviewed between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2019. It is organized into nine chapters, each beginning with a summary of the chapter's key findings. The report also contains two appendices: Appendix A describes the procedures used to select the sample, and Appendix B contains a table of the percentages and means of the principle variables presented in the report.

Chapters 1 through 3 summarize the demographic characteristics of California crop farmworkers, including place of birth, ethnicity and race, work authorization, gender, age, marital status, household size and structure, education, and language ability. Chapter 4 discusses farmworkers' housing, including the types of housing they live in, the location of their housing in relation to their jobs, and crowded conditions. Chapter 5 summarizes the characteristics of farm jobs, including crops and tasks, job recruitment, hours and wages, and benefits. Chapter 6 gives an overview of farmworkers' participation in U.S. agricultural employment, and Chapter 7 discusses workers' participation in non-crop employment, including farm jobs in other types of agriculture, and periods of unemployment. Chapter 8 presents information on farmworkers' income, assets, and use of assistance programs, and Chapter 9 summarizes health insurance coverage for farmworkers and their family members, health care utilization in the United States, and barriers to health care access.

## CHAPTER 1: Birthplace, Work Authorization, and Migrant Types

### *Summary of Findings*

- About 8 in 10 California hired farmworkers were born in Mexico (84%).
- Ninety-six percent of all California farmworkers were Hispanic. Among U.S.-born workers, 65 percent were Hispanic.
- Sixteen percent of California farmworkers self-identified as White and 84 percent of respondents did not select a category, instead they described race with an open-ended “other” response.
- Nine percent of California farmworkers were identified as indigenous.
- California farmworkers who were in their first year in the United States comprised only 2 percent<sup>9</sup> of the hired crop labor force.
- Half of all California farmworkers had work authorization (49%).
- The vast majority of California farmworkers were settled workers (87%). Thirteen percent were migrants.

### *Place of Birth*

About 8 in 10 California hired farmworkers interviewed in 2015–2019 were born in Mexico (84%), 12 percent were born in the United States, 4 percent were born in Central America, and a small portion (<1%<sup>10</sup>) originated from various other regions, including South America, the Caribbean, Asia, and the Pacific Islands (Figure 1.1).

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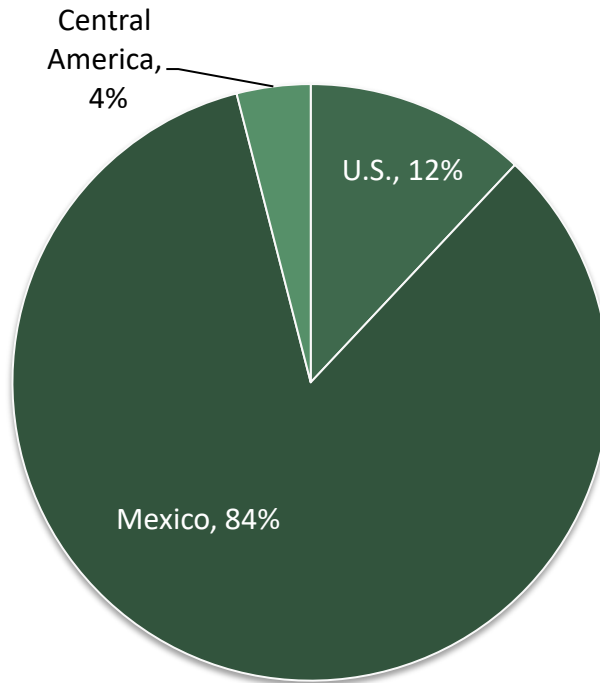
<sup>9</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent,

<sup>10</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.



Figure 1.1: Place of Birth, 2015–2019

**8 out of 10 California farmworkers are from Mexico.**



Farm workers reported a broader “other” category, this represented 0.25%.

### ***Ethnicity and Race***

Hispanic origin, as defined in the United States, can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person’s parents or ancestors.<sup>11</sup> Foreign-born workers may more readily identify with a national origin rather than an abstract ethnicity concept, such as Hispanic or Latino. Workers born in the United States, or those who have been in the United States for several years, may have a better understanding of the U.S. ethnicity label system.

To capture Hispanic identity, farmworkers were asked to indicate which of a variety of categories best described them. Ninety-six percent of California workers identified themselves as members of a Hispanic group: 80 percent as Mexican; 10 percent as Mexican-American; and the remaining 5 percent as Chicano, Puerto Rican, or other Hispanic. Among U.S.-born workers, 65 percent self-identified as Hispanic: 41 percent as Mexican-American; 20 percent as Mexican; and 4 percent<sup>12</sup> as Puerto Rican, Chicano, or other Hispanic.

<sup>11</sup> Humes, K. R., Jones, N. A., & Ramirez, R. R. (2011). *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2010*. 2010 Census Briefs (p. 2).

<sup>12</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

Farmworker respondents were also asked to indicate the race with which they identify. Respondents had the opportunity to choose one or more race categories from the standard list required by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Sixteen percent of California respondents in 2015–2019 self-identified as White, and 84 percent of respondents gave an answer not on the standard list. Among them, 88 percent classified their race as Latino or Hispanic (including Latino, Hispanic, Hispano, Mexican, Mexicano, Mexican-American, and Chicano), 8 percent referenced their complexion (including Moreno and Café), 2 percent identified with an indigenous group, 2 percent identified with their Central American origin (Guatemalan, Honduran, and Salvadoran), and less than 1 percent<sup>13</sup> provided other responses (examples include American, Filipino, and Portuguese).

The categories used in the NAWS questions on ethnicity and race might not be intuitively understood by indigenous individuals who identify themselves as members of a specific community or language group rather than a more generic racial group such as indigenous. Beginning in 2005, the NAWS began supplementing the question on primary language use with questions that ask about adult languages spoken as well as childhood language exposure.<sup>14</sup> The NAWS uses a combination of the responses to these questions and the question about race to identify farmworkers who are indigenous, and in 2015–2019, 9 percent of NAWS respondents in California were identified as indigenous.

### ***Foreign-Born Workers' First Arrival to the United States***

While not a measure of continued residence, data on the month and year a foreign-born farmworker first entered the United States provides some information about migration history. For example, time in the United States since first arrival can serve as a measure of attachment to the farm workforce.

On average, foreign-born farmworkers in California interviewed in 2015–2019 first came to the United States 21 years before being interviewed. The vast majority of respondents had been in the United States at least 10 years (84%), with two-thirds arriving at least 15 years prior to their NAWS interview (66%). Farmworkers who first arrived in the United States in the year predating their interview comprised 2 percent<sup>15</sup> of workers interviewed in 2015–2019 (Figure 1.2).

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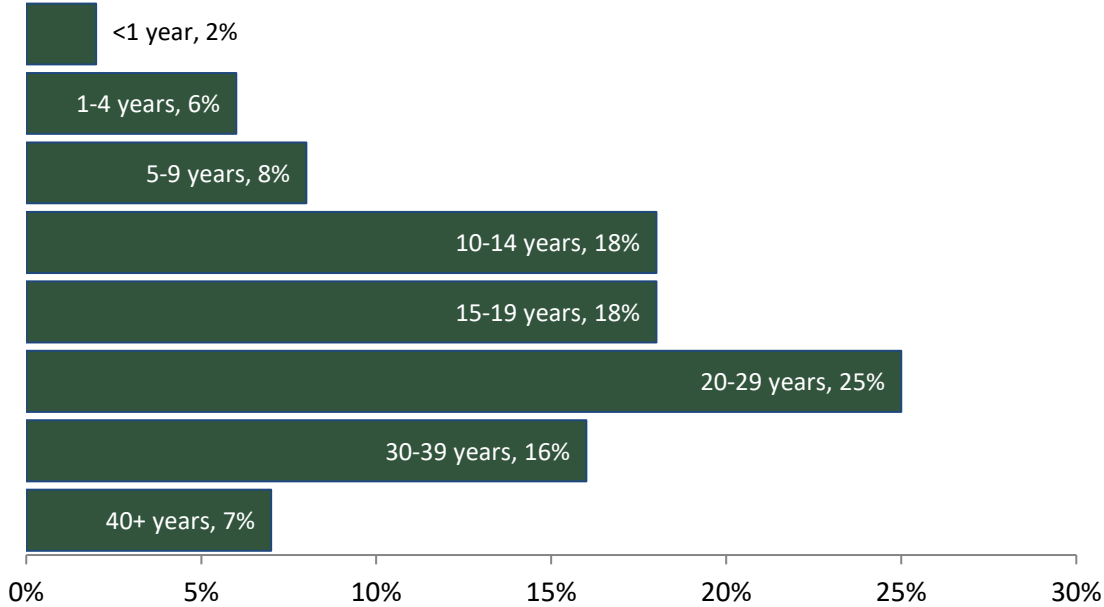
<sup>13</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

<sup>14</sup> Gabbard, S., Kissam, E., Glasnapp, J., Nakamoto, J., Saltz, R., Carroll, D. J., & Georges, A. (November, 2012). [\*Identifying Indigenous Mexicans and Central Americans in Surveys\*](#). International Conference on Methods for Surveying and Enumerating Hard-to-Reach Populations (November, 2012). New Orleans, LA.

<sup>15</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

Figure 1.2: Years Since First Arrival to the United States, 2015–2019

**Over 80 percent of foreign-born farmworkers in California had been in the United States for at least 10 years.**



Foreign-born respondents in California were asked to report where they lived (state/department/province) before coming to the United States. Among Mexico-born workers interviewed in 2015–2019, most came from the states of Michoacán (30%), Jalisco (13%), Guanajuato (10%), Oaxaca (10%), Baja California (7%), and Guerrero (5%). The greatest proportion of Mexico-born farmworkers originated from the Western Central region (55%), 24 percent came from Northern Mexico, and another 21 percent came from Southern Mexico.<sup>16</sup>

**Work Authorization**

A series of related questions in the survey provides a picture of whether foreign-born respondents have work authorization. These questions address the foreign-born worker’s existing status (citizen, lawful permanent resident, border crossing-card holder, applicant for residency, temporary visa holder, or unauthorized) and, when applicable, the date and program under which the individual applied for work authorization. In addition, each foreign-born respondent is asked whether he or she has authorization to work in the United States. To be classified as work authorized, a worker must provide consistent answers, and answers that conform to visa regulations. For example, a worker who reports work authorization from a visa program that expired before he or she entered the country would be classified as unauthorized.

<sup>16</sup> The Western Central region of Mexico includes the states of Colima, Guanajuato, Jalisco, and Michoacán. The Northern region includes the states of Aguascalientes, Baja California, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Mexico City, Durango, Estado de Mexico, Hidalgo, Nayarit, Nuevo Leon, Queretaro, San Luis Potosi, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tamaulipas, and Zacatecas. The Southern region of Mexico includes the states of Campeche, Chiapas, Guerrero, Morelos, Oaxaca, Puebla, Quintana Roo, Tabasco, Tlaxcala, Veracruz, and Yucatan.

Forty-nine percent of the California hired crop labor force had work authorization in 2015–2019,<sup>17</sup> and U.S. citizens comprised 19 percent of the crop labor force. Among citizens, 64 percent were born in the United States and 36 percent were naturalized citizens. The remainder of the work authorized population consisted mainly of lawful permanent residents (29%) and 2 percent had work authorization through some other visa program.

### ***Migrant Farmworkers***

The definition of “migrant” has varied across Federal government agencies and programs that provide services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. The NAWS has defined a migrant as a person who reported jobs that were at least 75 miles apart or who reported moving more than 75 miles to obtain a farm job during a 12-month period.<sup>18</sup>

Interpreting migration patterns requires some caution. Since the analysis presented here covers only one year of farm employment data, these definitions describe movement during that particular year. The discussion below assumes that most of the workers making a move during the year were cyclical migrants. However, a portion of these workers may have been making a permanent move.

For the purpose of this report, migrant farmworkers were categorized according to their migrant travel patterns. Migration consisted of moving from a “home base,” the location where the migrant spent the greatest amount of time during the year preceding his/her NAWS interview, to one or more destination locations where work was available. Shuttle migrants were workers who did not work on a U.S. farm at their home base, but who traveled 75 miles or more to do farm work in a single U.S. location, and worked only within a 75-mile radius of that location. Follow-the-crop migrants were workers who traveled to multiple U.S. farm locations for work. Follow-the-crop migrants might or might not have done U.S. farm work at their home base. This report further classifies migrants into domestic migrants (those who traveled solely within the United States in the 12 months preceding their interview to do farm work) or international migrants (those who crossed the U.S. border to do farm work).

Thirteen percent of California farmworkers interviewed in 2015–2019 were migrants (see Figure 1.3). Among them, one-third were domestic migrants (21% domestic follow-the-crop and 11% domestic shuttle migrants), almost half were international migrants (46% international shuttle migrants<sup>19</sup>), and 20 percent of migrants were newcomers who had been in the U.S. less than a year (see Figures 1.4 and 1.5).

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<sup>17</sup> The sample does not include farmworkers with H-2A visas.

<sup>18</sup> Migrant programs often use a 24-month look-back period in their definitions of migrant. The NAWS collects data about travel to another city to do farm work during the 12 months preceding the NAWS interview, and also the 12 months prior to that. In 2015–2019, 16 percent of farmworkers reported that they traveled to another city to do farm work sometime during the previous 24 months.

<sup>19</sup> Estimate for international follow-the-crop is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.

Figure 1.3: Distribution of Settled and Migrants, 2015–2019

Nearly 90 percent of farmworkers were **settled**

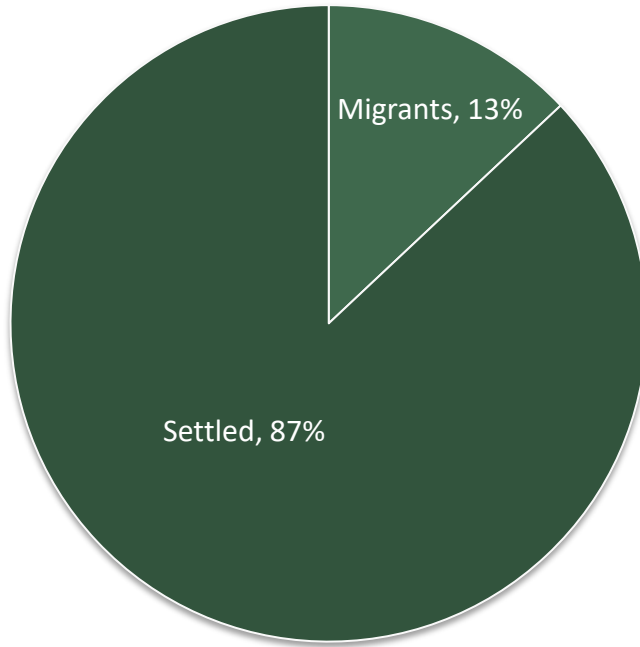


Figure 1.4: Distribution of Migrant Types (as Percent of Migrants), 2015–2019

One-third of migrants in California were **domestic**.

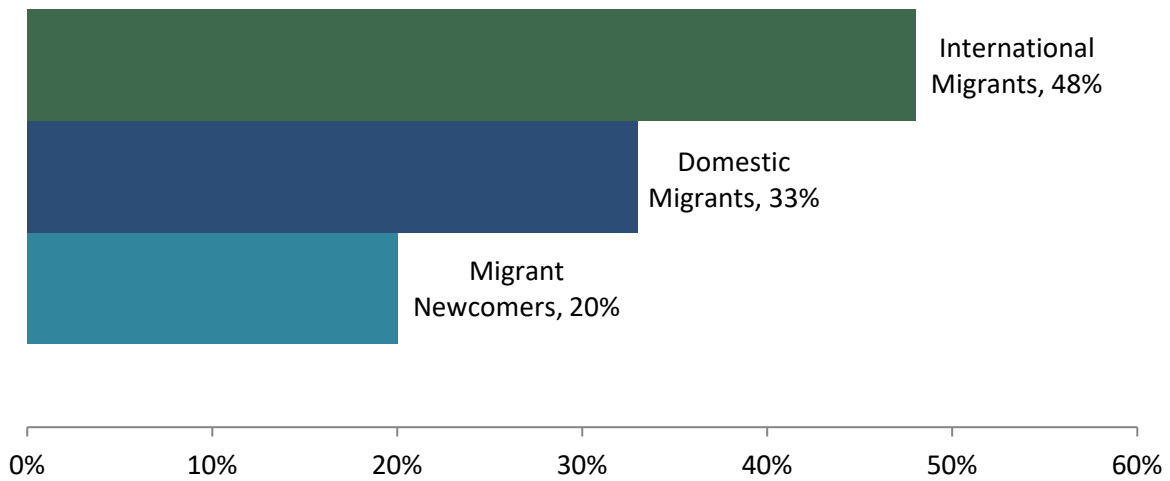
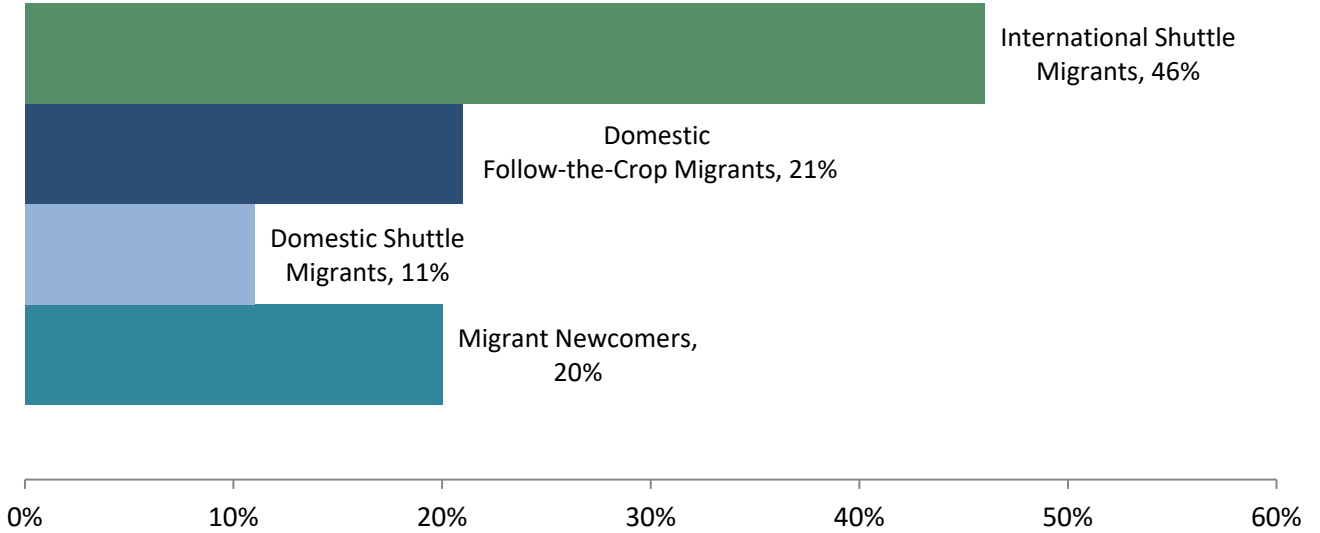


Figure 1.5: Distribution of Migrant Types According to Their Migrant Travel Patterns (as Percent of Migrants), 2015–2019

**Most international migrants in California were shuttle migrants.**



*Note:* Estimate for international follow-the-crop is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.

## CHAPTER 2: Demographics, Family Size, Children, and Household Structure

### Summary of Findings

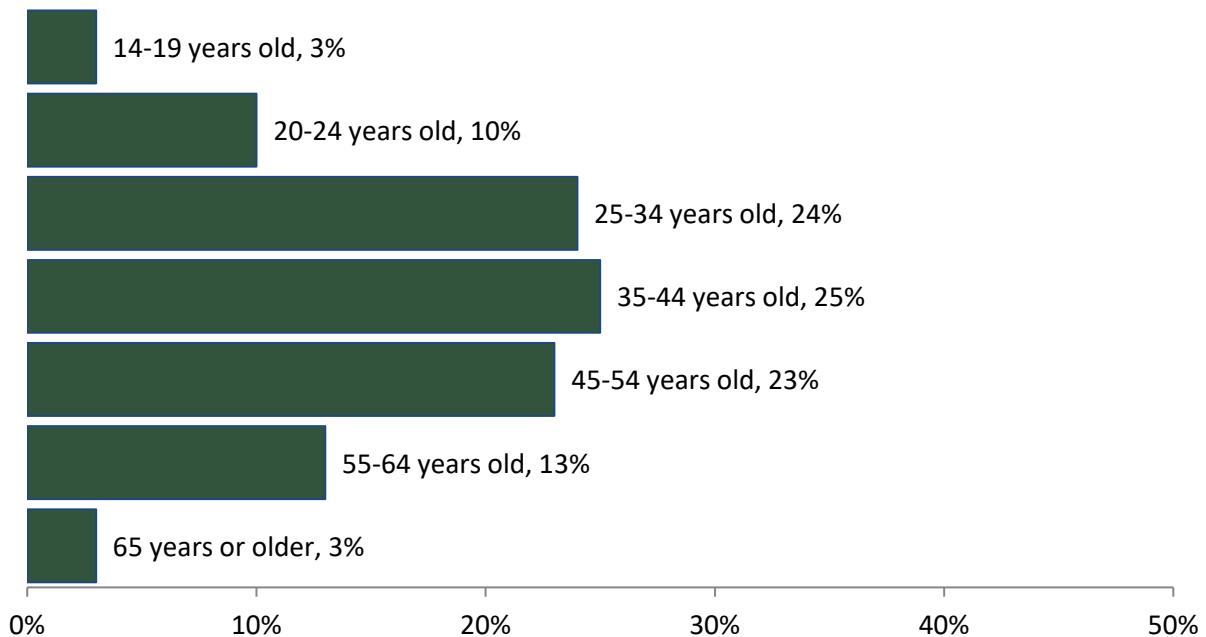
- Sixty-nine percent of California farmworkers were men.
- California farmworkers’ average age was 40, and median age was 39.
- Sixty-three percent of California farmworkers were married.
- Fifty-eight percent of California farmworkers had children.
- Thirty-two percent of California farmworkers were living apart from all nuclear family members at the time of their interview. Seventy-three percent of unaccompanied farmworkers were single workers without children, 22 percent were parents, and 5 percent had a spouse but no children.

### Gender and Age

In 2015–2019, the California crop labor force was predominantly male (69%) and had an average age of 40 and median age of 39. Just over one-third of all crop workers were under the age of 35 (36%) and 16 percent were age 55 or older (Figure 2.1).

**Figure 2.1: Age Distribution of Farmworkers, 2015–2019**

**Over a third of California farmworkers were younger than 35.**



In 2015–2019, unauthorized workers in California were younger than authorized workers (an average of 37 and 44 years of age respectively), and newcomers to U.S. farm work (i.e., those arriving in the United States within the year prior to interview) were younger than experienced

workers (an average of 23 and 41 years of age respectively). The average age of males and females was nearly the same – 41 and 40 years, respectively.

**Marital Status and Family Type**

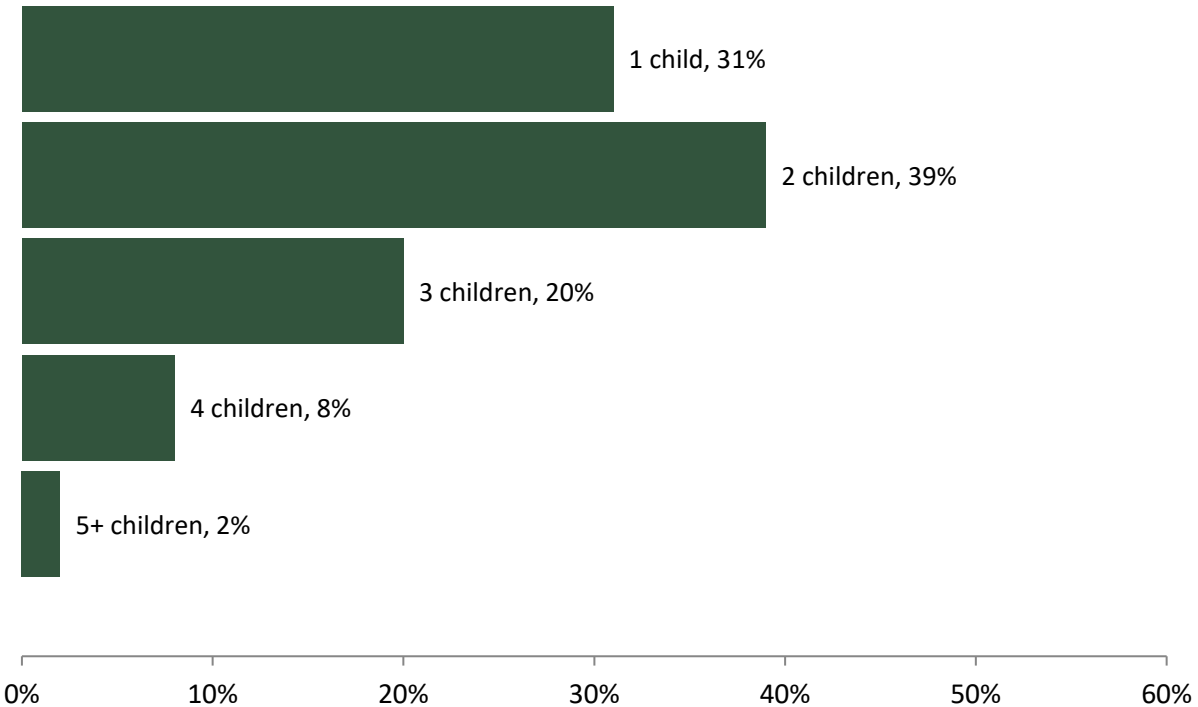
More than half of California farmworkers interviewed in 2015–2019 were married (63%) and more than half of all California farmworkers were parents (58%). Among parents, 78 percent were married or living together, 9 percent were single, and 12 percent were separated, divorced, or widowed.

**Children and Household Structure**

In 2015–2019, California farmworker parents with minor children living in their household had an average of two minor children living with them at the time they were interviewed. Seventy percent of these parents had one or two minor children living with them (31% and 39% respectively), 20 percent had three minor children, 8 percent had four minor children, and 2 percent had five or more minor children (Figure 2.2).

**Figure 2.2: Number of Minor Children in the Household of Farmworkers, 2015–2019**

**Most California farmworker parents with minor children had one or two minor children in their household.**



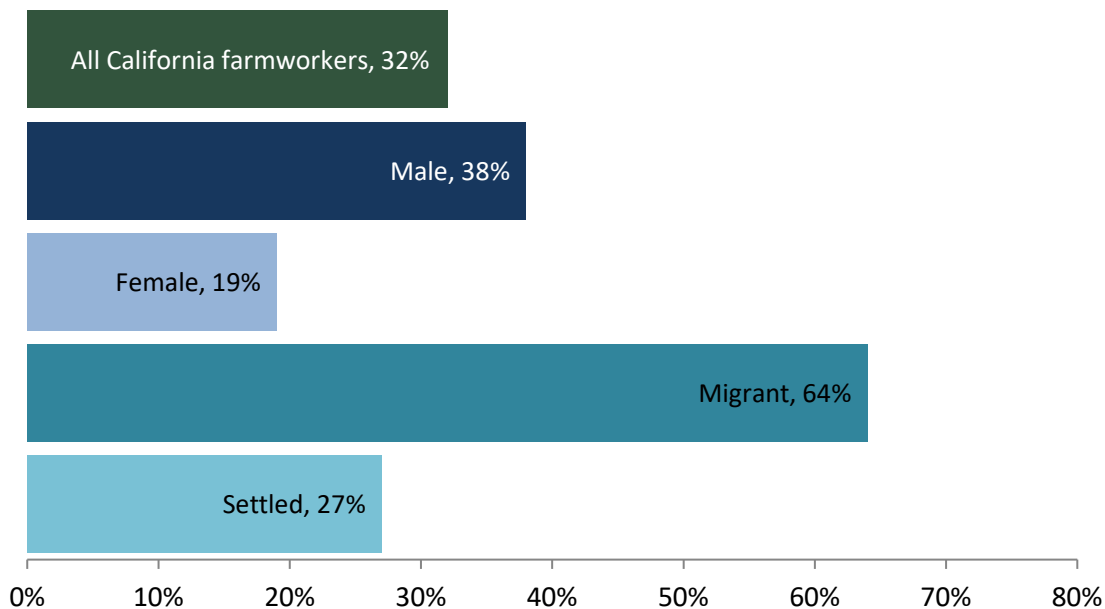
Of California farmworker parents with children under the age of 18, 44 percent had children younger than age 6, 73 percent had children ages 6–13, and 41 percent had children ages 14–17. Two percent of parents resided with only some of their minor children and 15 percent lived away from all their minor children. Migrant parents were nearly four times more likely than settled parents to be living away from all their minor children (47% and 12% respectively).



“Unaccompanied” farmworkers, defined as those who were living apart from all nuclear family members (parents, siblings, spouse, and children) at the time of their interview, comprised 32 percent of the California crop labor force in 2015–2019. Migrant workers were much more likely than settled workers to be unaccompanied (64% and 27% respectively), as were men when compared to women (38% and 19% respectively). See Figure 2.3. The majority of the unaccompanied workers were single workers without children (73%), 22 percent were parents, and 5 percent had a spouse but no children.

Figure 2.3: Percent of Farmworkers Unaccompanied by Nuclear Family, 2015–2019

**Male and migrant farmworkers in California were more likely to be unaccompanied by nuclear family.**



Among California farmworker parents in 2015–2019, nearly all mothers (97%) and 8 of 10 fathers (83%) were accompanied by at least some nuclear family members. Similarly, among married workers without children, 97 percent of women and 87 percent of the men were accompanied at the time of the interview.

## CHAPTER 3: Language, Education, and English Skills

### *Summary of Findings*

- Almost all California farmworkers reported that Spanish was their primary language (89%).
- Sixteen percent of California workers reported that they could speak English “well” and 35 percent said, “not at all.” Fifteen percent reported that they could read English “well” while 47 percent said, “not at all.”
- The average level of formal education completed by California farmworkers was eighth grade.
- Twenty-five percent of California workers reported having taken at least one adult education class in the United States.

### *Primary Language*

The NAWS primary language question was changed in 2018 to allow respondents to select the option of being bilingual. In 2015–2017, 9 in 10 farmworkers said that Spanish was the language in which they are most comfortable conversing (89%), 8 percent said English was, and 3 percent<sup>20</sup> reported an indigenous language.<sup>21</sup> Among workers born in Mexico or Central America, nearly all reported that Spanish was their primary language (96%). Of the remainder, 1 percent said that English was their primary language and 3 percent<sup>22</sup> reported an indigenous language as the one in which they were most comfortable conversing. Beginning in 2018, the NAWS allowed respondents to specify that they spoke comfortably in more than one primary language. In 2018–2019, eight in ten farmworkers said that Spanish was the language in which they were most comfortable conversing (80%), 7 percent<sup>23</sup> said English was, 5 percent<sup>24</sup> said both Spanish and English, and 7 percent said more than one language.<sup>25</sup> Among workers born in Mexico or Central America, nearly all reported that Spanish was their primary language (89%). Of the remainder, less than 1 percent<sup>26</sup> said that English was their primary language, and 2 percent<sup>27</sup> said both Spanish and English.

### *English Language Skills*

Farmworkers were asked two questions about their English fluency, “How well do you speak English?” and “How well do you read English?” In 2015–2019, 35 percent of California workers responded that they could not speak English “at all,” 36 percent said they could speak English “a little,” 13 percent said they could speak English “somewhat,” and 16 percent said they could speak English “well.” Regarding their ability to read English, 47 percent of the hired crop labor force reported they could not read English “at all,” 27 percent said they could read English “a

<sup>20</sup> Estimates should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

<sup>21</sup> Indigenous languages reported by farmworkers interviewed in 2015–2019 include Acateco, Amuzgo, Chatino, Chuj, Mam, Nahuatl, Popti, Purepecha/Tarasco, Tlapaneco, and Triqui.

<sup>22</sup> Estimates should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

<sup>23</sup> Estimates should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

<sup>24</sup> Estimates should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

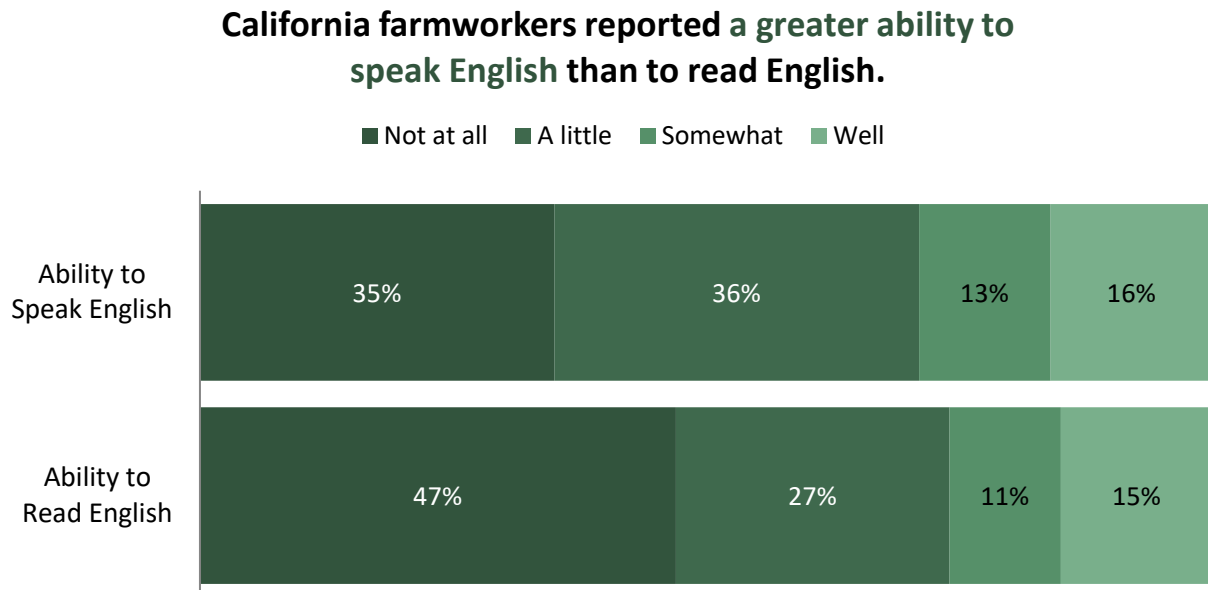
<sup>25</sup> Estimates should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

<sup>26</sup> Estimates should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

<sup>27</sup> Estimates should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

little,” 11 percent said they could read English “somewhat,” and 15 percent said they could read English “well” (Figure 3.1).<sup>28</sup>

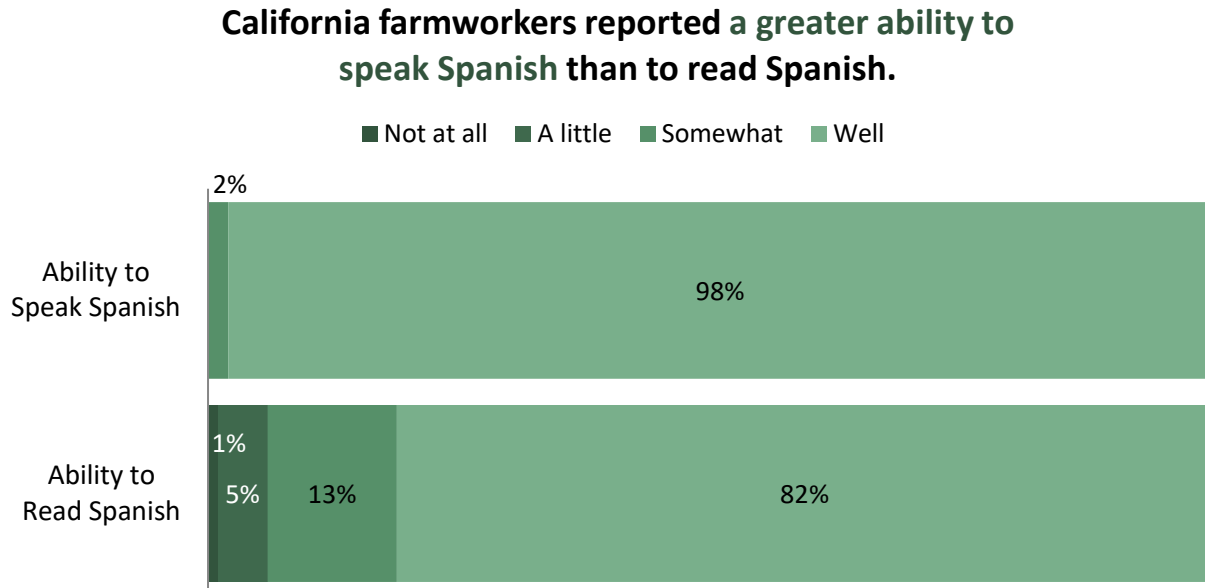
**Figure 3.1: Farmworkers' Self-Reported English Speaking and Reading Ability, 2015–2019**



Farmworkers who reported having a primary language other than English were asked to indicate how well they could speak and read in that language. Among California workers whose primary language was Spanish, nearly all reported they could speak Spanish “well” (98%). In describing their Spanish reading ability, 82 percent responded with “well,” 13 percent replied with “somewhat,” 5 percent said “a little,” and 1 percent replied with “not at all.” (Figure 3.2).

<sup>28</sup> Respondents’ self-reports of language proficiency could be higher or lower than their actual proficiency.

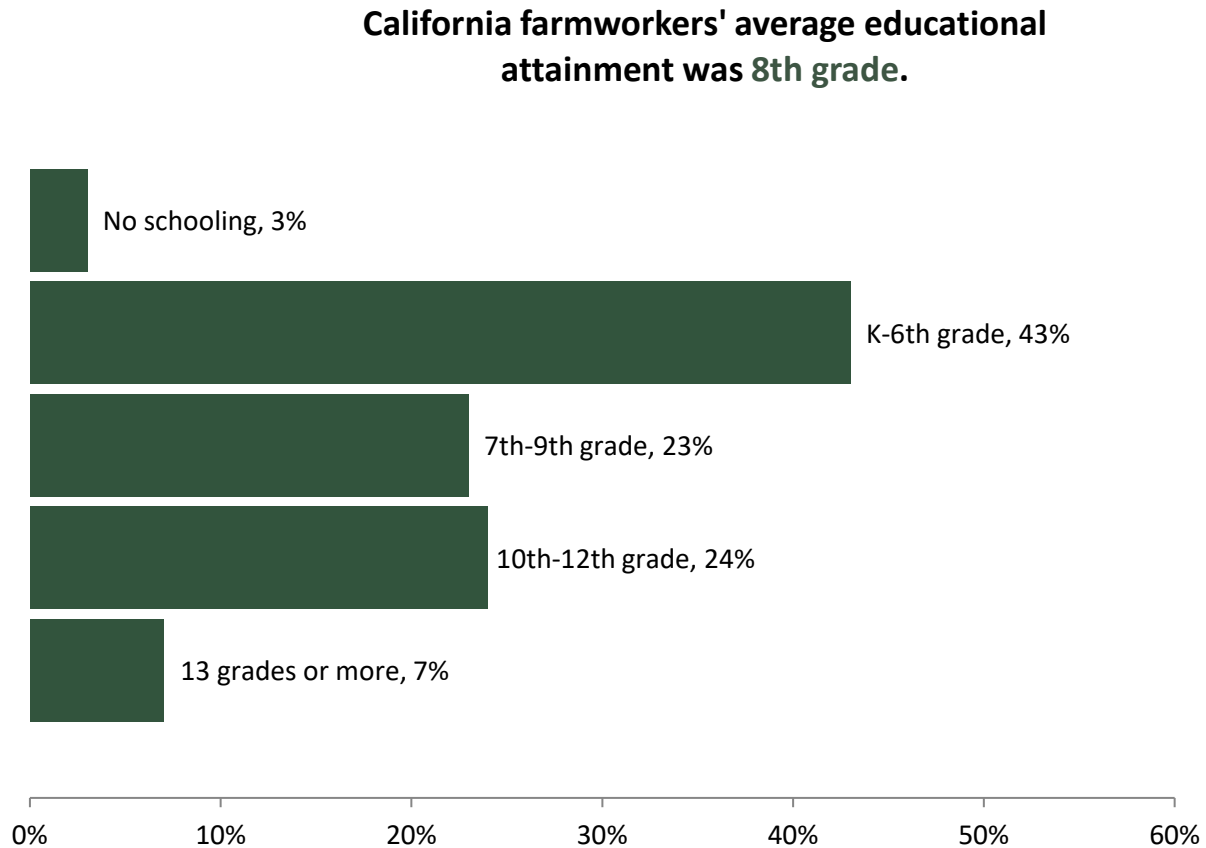
**Figure 3.2: Among Farmworkers Whose Primary Language Is Spanish, Self-Reported Spanish Speaking and Reading Ability, 2015–2019**



**Education**

In 2015–2019, California farmworkers’ average educational attainment was eighth grade. Three percent of workers reported that they had no formal schooling and 43 percent reported that they completed the 6<sup>th</sup> grade or lower. Twenty-three percent of workers said they completed grade 7, 8, or 9, and 24 percent said they completed grade 10, 11, or 12. Seven percent of farmworkers reported completing some education beyond high school (Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.3: Distribution of Highest Grade Completed by Farmworkers, 2015–2019



The highest grade completed varied by place of birth. On average, the highest grade completed by California workers born in the United States was 12<sup>th</sup> and the highest grade completed by workers born in Mexico or other countries was seventh. Approximately 7 in 10 U.S.-born farmworkers completed the 12<sup>th</sup> grade or higher (72%), as did 19 percent of Mexico-born workers and 19 percent<sup>29</sup> of workers born in other countries.

### **Adult Education**

In 2015–2019, 25 percent of California farmworkers reported having taken at least one adult education class in the United States sometime in their life. The most common classes were for job training (22%), English (15%), citizenship (4%), college or university (4%), and high school equivalency (GED) (2%). Small shares of workers (2%) reported taking other types of classes (Figure 3.4).

<sup>29</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

**Figure 3.4: Percent of Farmworkers Who Attended Adult Education Classes, 2015–2019**

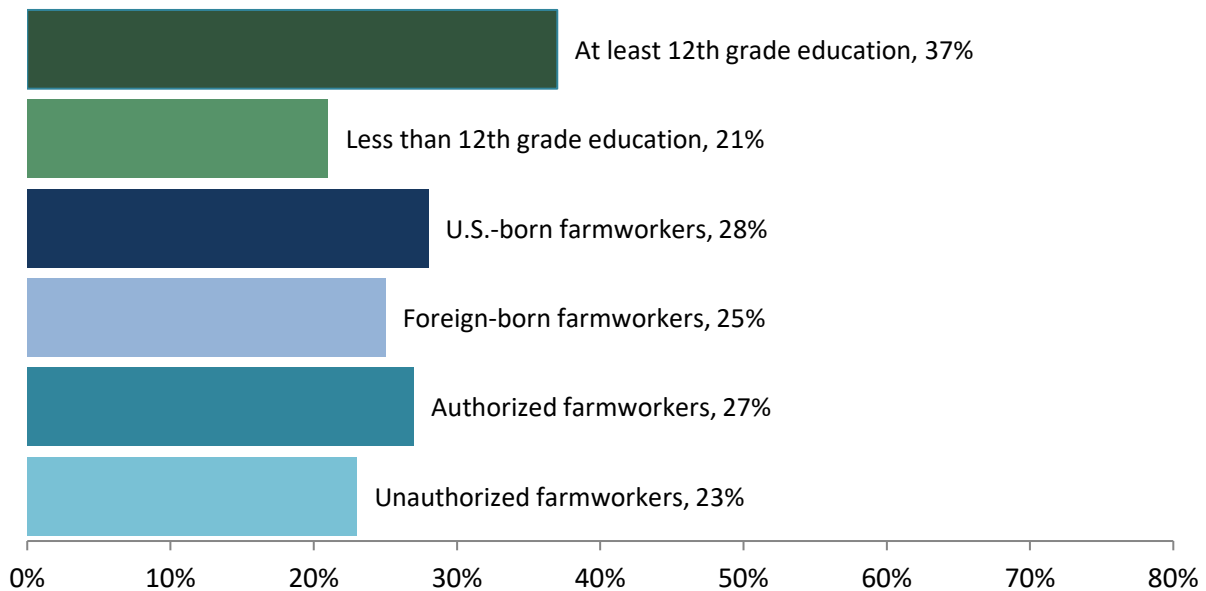
Adult Education	Percent of California Farmworkers
<b>Any adult education</b>	25%
<b>Type of Class<sup>a</sup></b>	
<b>Job training</b>	22%
<b>English/ESL</b>	15%
<b>Citizenship</b>	4%
<b>College/University</b>	4%
<b>GED, HS equivalency</b>	2%
<b>Other</b>	2%

<sup>a</sup> Farmworkers may have attended multiple types of classes.

California farmworkers with the most formal education were the most likely to attend U.S. adult education classes. The rate of attendance among those who had completed the 12<sup>th</sup> grade was almost twice as high as those who had not (37% and 21% respectively). Similarly, workers born in the United States were more likely than those born abroad to report having attended some type of adult education class (28% and 25% respectively), as were authorized workers when compared to unauthorized workers (27% and 23% respectively). See Figure 3.5.

**Figure 3.5: Percent of Farmworkers Who Attended At Least One Adult Education Class in the United States, 2015–2019**

**Higher-educated, U.S.-born, and authorized farmworkers in California were more likely to attend adult education.**



## CHAPTER 4: Housing Characteristics and Distance to Work

### *Summary of Findings*

- Nine percent of California farmworkers lived in a dwelling owned or administered by their current employer: 8 percent on the farm of the grower for whom they were working and 1 percent off the farm.
- Fifty-seven percent of California workers lived in detached, single-family houses.
- One-third of California farmworkers lived in a dwelling defined as “crowded” (35%).
- Nearly 8 in 10 California workers lived fewer than 25 miles from their current farm job (76%) and 16 percent lived between 25 and 49 miles from work. Seven percent of workers lived where they worked.
- Sixty-five percent of California workers drove a car to work, 14 percent rode with a “raitero,”<sup>30</sup> and 2 percent took a labor bus, truck, or van.

### *Location of Housing and Payment Arrangement*

Farmworkers provided information about their housing situation (arrangement, location, type, and occupancy) while working at their current farm job. Nine percent of California farmworkers lived in employer-provided housing (i.e., property owned or administered by their current employer): 8 percent on the farm of the grower for whom they were working and 1 percent off the farm. The remaining 90 percent of workers lived in a property not owned or administered by their current employer.

In addition to information about the location of their housing, farmworkers provided information about the payment arrangements they had for their housing. In 2015–2019, more than half of all California farmworkers reported that they lived in housing that they rented from someone other than their employer (67%); 21 percent of workers said they lived in a home owned by themselves or a family member; 2 percent said they paid rent for housing provided by the government, a charity, or other organization; and 9 percent of workers lived in employer-provided housing. Among those living in employer-provided housing, 5 percent received it free of charge, 3 percent paid rent either directly or via payroll deduction, and 1 percent had other arrangements with their employers.

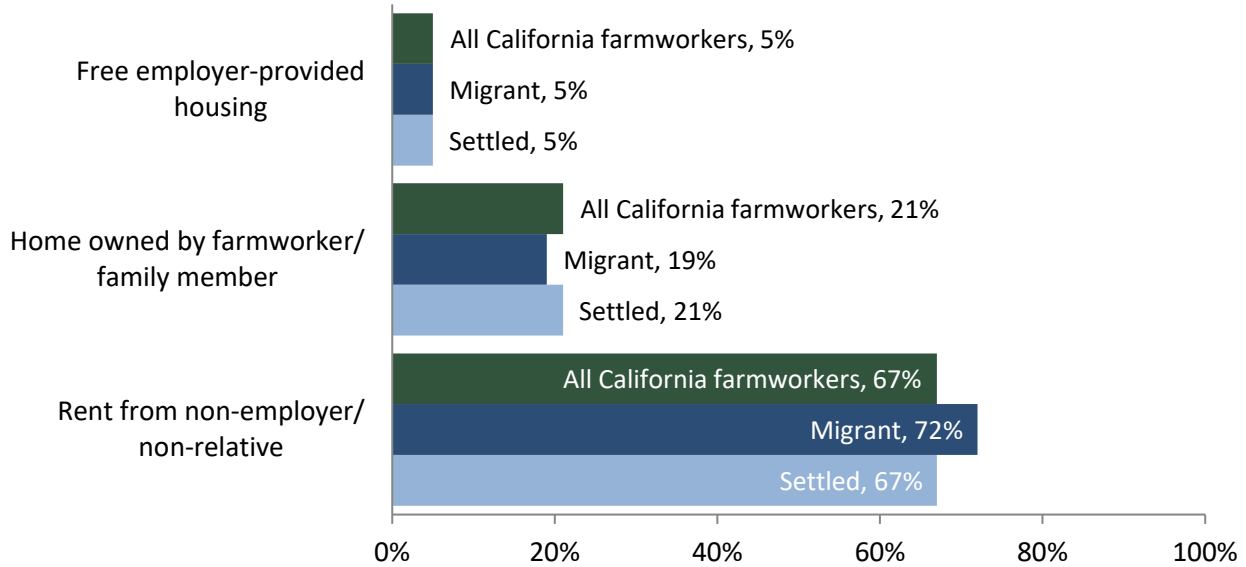
The same percentage of migrant and settled workers in California lived in employer-provided housing that they received free of charge (5%), and migrant workers were less likely than settled workers to live in a home that they or a family member owned (19% and 21% respectively). Migrant workers were more likely than settled workers to rent from non-employer/non-relative (72% and 67% respectively). See Figure 4.1.

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<sup>30</sup> “Raitero,” derived from “ride,” is the Spanish word for a person who charges a fee for providing a ride to work.

Figure 4.1: Housing Arrangements for Farmworkers, 2015–2019

**Migrant farmworkers in California were more likely to live in housing rented from non-employer/non-relative.**



California farmworkers who reported that they paid for their housing were asked how much they paid at their current residence, including for their family if their family lived with them. Six percent reported that they paid less than 200 dollars per month, almost a quarter said they paid 200–399 dollars per month (21%), 19 percent paid 400–599 dollars per month, and 54 percent paid 600 dollars or more per month.

**Type of Housing**

In 2015–2019, more than half of California farmworkers reported living in detached, single-family houses (57%), 12 percent said they lived in mobile homes, and another 27 percent lived in apartments. The remaining 4 percent lived in other types of housing.<sup>31</sup>

Similar percentages of migrant and settled workers in California reported living in detached, single-family homes (60% and 56% respectively), mobile homes (10% and 13% respectively), and apartments (28% and 27% respectively). Unauthorized workers were less likely than authorized workers to reside in single-family homes (48% and 66% respectively) and more likely to live in mobile homes (13% and 11% respectively) and apartments (33% and 21% respectively). See Figure 4.2.

<sup>31</sup> Other types of housing in which farmworkers reported living included a duplex or triplex, dormitory or barracks, motel or hotel, or “other.”



**Figure 4.2: Type of Housing by Migrant and Authorization Status, 2015–2019**

Type of Housing	All California				
	Farmworkers	Migrant	Settled	Authorized	Unauthorized
<b>Single family home</b>	57%	60%	56%	66%	48%
<b>Mobile home</b>	12%	10%	13%	11%	13%
<b>Apartment</b>	27%	28%	27%	21%	33%
<b>Other</b>	4%	2% <sup>a</sup>	4%	2%	6%

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

Among immigrant farmworkers in California, the proportion living in single-family homes increased with the number of years living in the United States. Among immigrants who first arrived in the United States fewer than 10 years ago, 49 percent lived in single-family homes, compared to 52 percent of those who had been in the United States between 10 and 19 years, and 58 percent of those who had been in the United States at least 20 years (see Figure 4.3).

**Figure 4.3: Type of Housing by Length of Time in the United States, 2015–2019**

Type of Housing	In United States		
	Less than 10 Years	10-19 Years	20 Years or More
<b>Single family home</b>	49%	52%	58%
<b>Mobile home</b>	11%	10%	16%
<b>Apartment</b>	31%	35%	22%
<b>Other</b>	10% <sup>a</sup>	3%	4%

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

In 2015–2019, California farmworkers reported they had an average of six rooms in the dwellings they lived in: an average of three bedrooms, one or two bathrooms, one kitchen, and one “other” room. Nearly all workers said there was at least one bathroom in their living unit (>99%) and at least one kitchen (>99%).

### **Household Crowding**

The measure of crowding used for this report is based on the one-person-per-room definition of the U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Housing.<sup>32</sup> Persons-per-room was calculated by summing the number of rooms (excluding bathrooms, but including kitchens) that respondents said they had in their current living quarters, then dividing the number of persons that respondents said slept in those rooms by the total number of rooms. Dwellings in which the number of persons per room was greater than one were considered crowded.

In 2015–2019, 35 percent of California farmworkers lived in crowded dwellings. Migrant workers lived in crowded dwellings with greater frequency than settled workers (37% compared

<sup>32</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division. (2011, October 31). *Crowding* (<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/census/historic/crowding.html>).

to 35%), and unauthorized workers were twice as likely as authorized workers to live in crowded dwellings (47% and 23% respectively).

### ***Distance to Work and Transportation***

When asked how far their current farm job was from their current residence, 7 percent of California farmworkers in 2015–2019 reported that they lived where they worked, 31 percent said they lived within 9 miles of their job location, 45 percent lived between 10 and 24 miles from work, 16 percent lived between 25 and 49 miles from work, and 2 percent lived 50 or more miles from work.

Farmworkers used various modes of transportation to get to work. In 2015–2019, 65 percent of California workers reported that they drove a car to work (even though 70% of workers said they owned a car or truck, as discussed in chapter 8), and 6 percent said they walked or took public transit. Twenty-nine percent of workers did not provide their own transportation but commuted via rides with others (12%); rides with a “raitero”<sup>33</sup> (14%); or rides on a labor bus, truck, or van (2%).

Among California workers who did not provide their own transportation, 6 percent<sup>34</sup> reported that it was mandatory or obligatory for them to use their current mode of transportation. Thirty-seven percent of workers who did not provide their own transportation reported having to pay a fee for these rides to work, and 43 percent said they paid, but only for gas. Twenty percent said they paid no fee for their rides with the “raitero,” on the labor bus, or with others.

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<sup>33</sup> “Raitero,” derived from “ride,” is the Spanish word for a person who charges a fee for providing a ride to work.

<sup>34</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

## CHAPTER 5: Employment Patterns and Farm Job Characteristics

### *Summary of Findings*

- Seven in ten California farmworkers were employed directly by growers (72%); 28 percent were employed by farm labor contractors.
- At the time of interview, 54 percent of California farmworkers were working in fruit and nut crops, 25 percent in vegetable crops, and 14 percent in horticulture. Five percent were working in field crops.
- At the time of interview, 25 percent of California farmworkers were performing pre-harvest tasks, 23 percent were harvesting crops, 19 percent were performing post-harvest activities, and 33 percent were performing technical production tasks.
- The majority of California farmworkers reported that their basis for pay was an hourly wage (86%). Workers reported earning an average of \$12.13 per hour at their current farm job.
- Forty-six percent of California farmworkers reported that they were covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) if they were to lose their current job, 78 percent said they would receive workers' compensation if they were injured at work or became ill as a result of their work, and 31 percent reported that their employer offered health insurance for injury or illness suffered while not on the job.

### *Type of Employer and Job Recruitment*

Most California farmworkers in 2015–2019 were employed directly by growers<sup>35</sup> (72%); farm labor contractors employed the remaining 28 percent. Seven in 10 workers reported that they found their current job via referrals from friends or relatives (70%), and almost a quarter got their job after applying for it on their own (23%). Six percent of workers were recruited by a grower, foreman, or labor contractor, and the remaining 1 percent were referred to their job by an employment service or welfare office, were hired under union-employer agreements, or found their job via some “other” means.

### *Primary Crops and Farm Job Tasks*

At the time they were interviewed in 2015–2019, 93 percent of California farmworkers reported working in fruits, nuts, vegetables, and horticultural crops (54% in fruits and nuts, 25% in vegetables, and 14% in horticulture). Five percent held jobs in field crops. Workers employed by farm labor contractors were more likely than those employed directly by growers to work in vegetable crops (39% compared to 20%) and almost as likely to work in fruit and nut crops (52% compared to 55%). Migrant farmworkers were more likely to work in vegetable crops than settled workers (30% and 25% respectively), but were less likely than settled workers to have jobs in horticultural crops (7% and 15% respectively). See Figure 5.1.

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<sup>35</sup> Growers include owners of establishments (i.e., farms, orchards, greenhouses, and nurseries) that engage primarily in growing crops, plants, or trees, but can also include other types of crop producers, such as packers, shippers, or distributors.

**Figure 5.1: Primary Crop at Time of Interview, 2015–2019**

Crop at Time of Interview	All California Farmworkers	Employed by Grower	Employed by Farm		
			Labor Contractor	Migrant Farmworkers	Settled Farmworkers
<b>Fruits and Nuts</b>	54%	55%	52%	51%	54%
<b>Vegetables</b>	25%	20%	39% <sup>a</sup>	30%	25%
<b>Horticulture</b>	14%	18%	3 <sup>a</sup>	7% <sup>a</sup>	15%
<b>Field Crops</b>	5%	6%	<sup>b</sup>	5% <sup>a</sup>	4%
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<sup>b</sup>	1%	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	2% <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.

Over the course of a year and even in a single day, crop workers potentially performed a wide variety of tasks. In the NAWS, interviewers recorded the task the respondent was performing just prior to the interview. Among California crop workers interviewed in 2015–2019, 25 percent performed pre-harvest tasks such as hoeing, thinning, and transplanting; 23 percent harvested crops; 19 percent performed post-harvest activities such as field packing, sorting, and grading; and 33 percent of workers performed technical production tasks such as pruning, irrigating, and operating machinery. Directly-hired crop workers were less likely than workers employed by farm labor contractors to perform harvest tasks (21% and 28% respectively), while migrant workers were more likely than settled workers to perform harvest tasks (32% and 21% respectively). Directly-hired workers were less likely than labor-contracted workers to perform post-harvest tasks (18% and 24%<sup>36</sup> respectively), while migrant crop workers were less likely than settled crop workers to perform post-harvest tasks (15%<sup>37</sup> and 20% respectively). Directly-hired workers and settled workers were also more likely than contracted workers to perform technical production tasks (36% and 25% respectively), while migrant workers were less likely than settled crop workers to perform technical production tasks (29% and 33% respectively). See Figure 5.2.

**Figure 5.2: Primary Task at Time of Interview, 2015–2019**

Primary Task at Time of Interview	All California Farmworkers	Employed by Grower	Employed by Farm		
			Labor Contractor	Migrant Farmworkers	Settled Farmworkers
<b>Pre-harvest</b>	25%	26%	23%	24%	25%
<b>Harvest</b>	23%	21%	28%	32%	21%
<b>Post-harvest</b>	19%	18%	24% <sup>a</sup>	15% <sup>a</sup>	20%
<b>Technical Production</b>	33%	36%	25%	29%	33%

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

<sup>36</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

<sup>37</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

### **Basis for Pay and Hours Worked**

The vast majority of California farmworkers in 2015–2019 reported that their basis for pay was an hourly wage (86%). Two percent of workers were paid a salary, 10 percent were paid exclusively by the piece, and 1 percent<sup>38</sup> were paid a combination (hourly and piece-rate) wage.

Respondents in California worked an average of 47 hours in the previous week at their current farm job. Agricultural employers' labor needs vary by season, crop, and task, and workers are sometimes needed for longer than normal hours over short periods of time. The data reflect the fluctuating nature of labor use. For example, workers who were harvesting field crops at the time they were interviewed in 2015–2019 reported working an average of 57 hours in the previous week. Workers who performed pre-harvest tasks (such as thinning and transplanting) in fruit and nut crops, on the other hand, reported an average of 43 hours of work the previous week (see Figure 5.3).

**Figure 5.3: Average Number of Hours Worked in Week Prior to Interview by Crop and Task at Time of Interview, 2015–2019**

Crop	Pre-Harvest Tasks	Harvest Tasks	Post-Harvest Tasks	Technical Production Tasks
<b>Field Crops</b>	55	57	57	59
<b>Fruit and Nut Crops</b>	43	43	47	46
<b>Horticulture</b>	54	46	66	45
<b>Vegetable Crops</b>	48	49	43	56
<b>Miscellaneous Crops</b>	46	43	46	49

The average number of hours worked in the previous week also varied by workers' age, gender, U.S. farm work experience, and payment type. California farmworkers ages 65 and older reported the fewest hours, an average of 39, and workers ages 22 to 24 reported the most hours, an average of 49. Males reported working an average of 48 hours in the previous week, and females reported an average of 46 hours. Crop workers with fewer than 2 years of experience or 31 or more years of experience reported the fewest hours of work the previous week, an average of 46, while those with 11 to 20 years of experience reported the most hours, an average of 49 hours. Farmworkers paid a salary reported the greatest number of hours the previous week, an average of 52. Workers paid by the piece averaged 44 hours, those paid by the hour averaged 48 hours, and those paid a combination of hourly wage and piece rate averaged 41 hours of work the previous week (Figure 5.4).

<sup>38</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

**Figure 5.4: Average Number of Hours Worked in Week Prior to Interview by Farmworker Characteristic, 2015–2019**

Farmworker Characteristic	Average Number of Hours Worked in Week Prior to Interview
<b>14-17 years old</b>	42
<b>18-21 years old</b>	45
<b>22-24 years old</b>	49
<b>25-34 years old</b>	48
<b>35-44 years old</b>	48
<b>45-50 years old</b>	48
<b>51-54 years old</b>	45
<b>55-64 years old</b>	46
<b>65 or more years old</b>	39
<b>Male</b>	48
<b>Female</b>	46
<b>Less than 2 years of farm work experience</b>	46
<b>2-4 years farm work experience</b>	48
<b>5-10 years farm work experience</b>	47
<b>11-20 years farm work experience</b>	49
<b>21-30 years farm work experience</b>	47
<b>31 or more years farm work experience</b>	46
<b>Paid by the hour</b>	48
<b>Paid by the piece</b>	44
<b>Paid combination hourly wage and piece rate</b>	41
<b>Paid salary or other</b>	52

### **Wages**

When asked how much they were earning per hour at their current farm job, California farmworkers in 2015–2019 reported an average of \$12.13.<sup>39</sup> Workers who were being paid by the hour earned an average hourly wage of \$11.61 and those being paid by the piece earned an average of \$14.87 per hour.

Hourly wages increased with respondents' number of years working for their current employer. California workers who had been with their current employer one to two years earned an average of \$11.55 per hour, those working for their current employer three to five years earned an average of \$11.96 per hour, and those working for their current employer 6 to 10 years earned an average of \$12.25 per hour. Workers who had worked for their current employer 11 years or more earned the highest hourly wage, averaging \$13.02 per hour.

<sup>39</sup> Piece rate and combination wages were converted to an hourly wage, then averaged with the wages of workers who were paid by the hour.

Among the tasks California respondents reported performing at the time they were interviewed, those who worked in harvest tasks earned the highest average hourly wage, at \$12.86. Pre-harvest workers earned an average of \$11.71 per hour, post-harvest workers earned an average of \$12.16 per hour, and those who worked in technical production tasks earned an average of \$11.93 per hour (Figure 5.5).

**Figure 5.5: Average Hourly Wage by Farmworker Characteristic, 2015–2019**

Farmworker Characteristic	Average Hourly Wage
<b>All California farmworkers</b>	\$12.13
<b>Paid by the hour</b>	\$11.61
<b>Paid by the piece</b>	\$14.87
<b>Paid combination hourly wage and piece rate</b>	\$19.55 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Salary or Other</b>	\$18.09
<b>With current employer 1 to 2 years</b>	\$11.55
<b>With current employer 3 to 5 years</b>	\$11.96
<b>With current employer 6 to 10 years</b>	\$12.25
<b>With current employer 11 or more years</b>	\$13.02
<b>Performed pre-harvest tasks at time of interview</b>	\$11.71
<b>Performed harvest tasks at time of interview</b>	\$12.86
<b>Performed post-harvest tasks at time of interview</b>	\$12.16
<b>Performed technical production tasks at time of interview</b>	\$11.93

<sup>a</sup> One percent of farmworkers reported being paid a combination hourly wage and piece rate at their current farm job.

### **Monetary Bonuses**

In 2015–2019, 29 percent of California farmworkers reported receiving a cash bonus from their current farm employer as part of their compensation package, 61 percent said they received no cash bonus, and 10 percent did not know. Workers who reported being paid a bonus were asked to identify all the types of bonuses they received. Fifty-six percent said they received a holiday bonus, 24 percent received an end-of-season bonus, 17 percent received an incentive award, and 5 percent received a bonus contingent upon grower profits (Figure 5.6).

**Figure 5.6: Types of Cash Bonuses Farmworkers Received, 2015–2019**

Type of Bonus <sup>a</sup>	Percent of California Farmworkers That Received a Bonus
<b>Holiday bonus</b>	56%
<b>End-of-season bonus</b>	24%
<b>Incentive bonus</b>	17%
<b>Bonus dependent on grower profit</b>	5%
<b>Other type of bonus</b>	<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Among workers who reported being paid a bonus. Multiple responses were allowed.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.

### **Worksite Availability of Water and Toilets**

NAWS respondents were asked if their current farm employer provided the following items at the worksite every day: 1) drinking water and cups, 2) a toilet, and 3) water for washing hands. Ninety-five percent of California farmworkers in 2015–2019 reported that they were provided with drinking water and disposable cups every day, and 3 percent said they were provided water only. A notable share of workers said that their employer provided no water and no cups (2%). Nearly all workers affirmed that they were provided a toilet every day (99%) and water for washing their hands (99%).

### **Pesticide Training**

The NAWS asks all respondents whether, at any time in the last 12 months, their current employer provided them with training or instruction in the safe use of pesticides. In 2015–2019, 68 percent of California farmworkers reported that they did receive this type of training.

### **Insurance Benefits**

NAWS respondents were asked whether they were covered by UI if they were to lose their current job. Forty-six percent of California farmworkers interviewed in 2015–2019 said “yes,” 51 percent said “no,” and 3 percent did not know.<sup>40</sup> Workers with authorization to work in the United States were far more likely than unauthorized workers to report that they would be covered by UI (87% and 6% respectively). Of the 51 percent of respondents who reported that they would not be covered by UI, 92 percent were unauthorized and would not qualify for the benefit.

When asked if they would receive workers’ compensation if they were injured at work or got sick as a result of their work, approximately 8 in 10 California farmworkers said “yes” (78%), 6 percent said “no,” and 15 percent did not know.<sup>41</sup> Furthermore, when asked whether their employer provided health insurance or paid for medical treatment for injury or illness suffered while off the job (regardless of whether or not the worker accepted or used the insurance), 31 percent confirmed that their employer offered such a benefit, 60 percent said their employer did not, and 9 percent were unsure. Authorized workers were more likely than unauthorized workers to report that they were covered by workers’ compensation insurance (82% and 75% respectively), and authorized workers were more likely than unauthorized workers to say that their employer offered health insurance for non-work-related injury or illness (36% and 25% respectively). See Figure 5.7. A discussion of farmworkers’ possession of health insurance coverage for themselves and their family members can be found in chapter 9.

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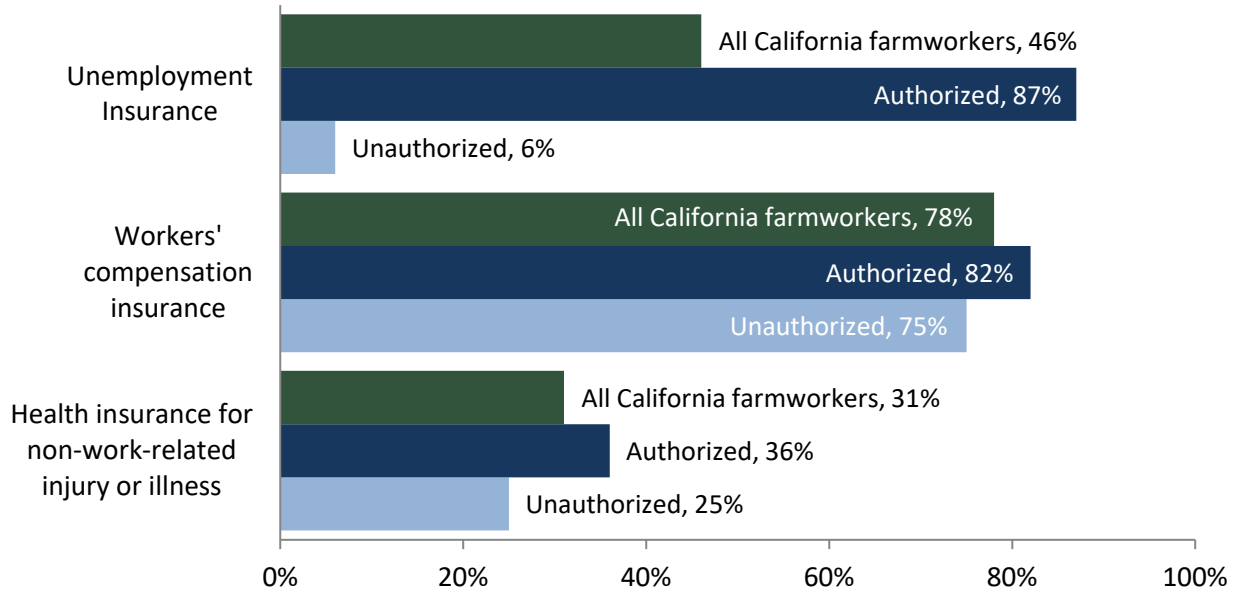
<sup>40</sup> California has universal unemployment insurance for agricultural workers. U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. (2017). *Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws* (<https://workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/pdf/uilawcompar/2017/complete.pdf>, p. 1-2).

<sup>41</sup> California requires all agricultural employers to have workers compensation insurance. Failure to do so will result in a fine of at least \$1,500 per worker, and no work can be done until all of the workers are covered ([https://www.dir.ca.gov/letf/Agriculture\\_Employer\\_Brochure.pdf](https://www.dir.ca.gov/letf/Agriculture_Employer_Brochure.pdf), p. 1-4).



Figure 5.7: Percent of Farmworkers Whose Employer Offers Health Insurance, 2015–2019

**Authorized farmworkers in California had greater access to Unemployment Insurance, workers' compensation insurance, and health insurance.**



## CHAPTER 6: Employment Experience

### Summary of Findings

- Seventy-six percent of California farmworkers worked for a single farm employer in the previous 12 months, and 24 percent worked for two or more employers. Crop workers had been employed with their current farm employer for an average of eight years.
- California farmworkers worked an average of 37 weeks in the previous 12 months.
- California farmworkers worked an average of five days per week for their current employer and an average of 225 days in farm work in the previous 12 months.
- California farmworkers with a full year or more of farm work experience had an average of 19 years of U.S. farm work experience. Workers with more years of experience worked more days in the previous 12 months.
- More than four-fifths of California workers interviewed (82%) expected to continue doing farm work for at least five years.

### Number of U.S. Farm Employers in Previous 12 Months

California farmworkers in 2015–2019 worked for an average of one U.S. farm employer<sup>42</sup> in the 12 months prior to being interviewed. Seventy-six percent of workers reported having worked for a single farm employer, 16 percent worked for two employers, and 8 percent worked for three or more farm employers in the previous 12 months.

Unauthorized workers in California were more likely than authorized workers to have worked for more than one farm employer in the previous 12 months (29% compared to 21%), and migrant workers were more than twice as likely as settled workers to have had more than one farm employer in the previous 12 months (39% compared to 22%). See Figure 6.1.

**Figure 6.1: Percentage Distribution of Number of Farm Work Employers in Previous 12 Months by Farmworker Characteristic, 2015–2019**

Number of Farm Employers	All California Farmworkers	Migrant	Settled	Authorized	Unauthorized
<b>One</b>	76%	61%	78%	79%	71%
<b>Two</b>	16%	27%	14%	15%	17%
<b>Three or more</b>	8%	12%	8%	5% <sup>a</sup>	12%

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

### Number of Years with Current Farm Employer

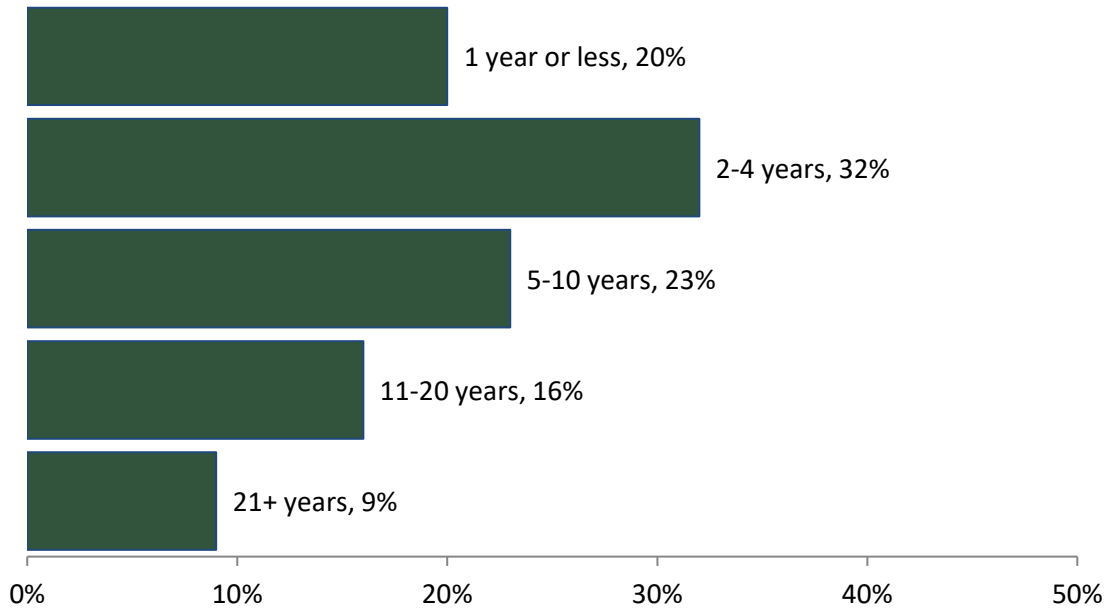
In 2015–2019, California farmworkers reported working for their current farm employer for an average of eight years.<sup>43</sup> More than 5 in 10 stated that they had been with their current employer for fewer than five years (52%) and more than 2 in 10 said that they had been with their current farm employer for 11 years or more (25%). See Figure 6.2.

<sup>42</sup> An employer can be either a farm owner or a farm labor contractor. While a worker employed by a farm labor contractor may work on more than one farm in a year, a single labor contractor is counted as one employer.

<sup>43</sup> Any employment for at least one day in the year qualifies as one year.

**Figure 6.2: Percentage Distribution of Number of Years with Current Farm Employer, 2015–2019**

**Half of California farmworkers had worked for their current farm employer for fewer than five years.**



### ***Weeks and Days of Farm Work in Previous 12 Months***

During the previous year, California farmworkers spent an average of 37 weeks (71% of the year) employed in U.S. farm work, with farm work participation varying depending on workers' work authorization, migrant status, and place of birth. Authorized workers, migrant workers, and U.S.-born workers worked fewer weeks in farm work (averages of 33, 27, and 29 weeks respectively) than unauthorized workers, settled workers, and foreign-born workers (averages of 41, 39, and 38 weeks respectively). Youth farmworkers, between the age of 14 and 17, were employed the fewest weeks in farm jobs, averaging 13 weeks of farm work in the previous 12 months, and workers aged 25 to 50 worked the most, averaging 39 weeks in the previous 12 months (Figure 6.3).

**Figure 6.3: Average Number of Weeks of Farm Work in Previous 12 Months, by Farmworker Characteristic, 2015–2019**

Farmworker Characteristic	Average Weeks of Farm Work in Previous 12 Months
<b>All California farmworkers</b>	37
<b>Migrant</b>	27
<b>Settled</b>	39
<b>Authorized</b>	33
<b>Unauthorized</b>	41
<b>U.S.-born</b>	29
<b>Foreign-born</b>	38
<b>14-17 years old</b>	13
<b>18-24 years old</b>	27
<b>25-50 years old</b>	39
<b>Over 50 years old</b>	38

For their employer at the time of interview, California farmworkers reported working an average of five days per week (see Figure 6.4). Farmworkers' approximate number of workdays per year was calculated using information on each employer the respondent had in the 12-month retrospective work history. Total workdays is the sum over all the respondent's employers of the workdays for each employer, calculated from employment dates, number of days worked per week, and number of weeks worked per employer. Over the previous 12 months, California farmworkers worked an average of 225 days in farm work, with averages varying depending upon workers' work authorization, migrant status, and place of birth. Unauthorized workers, settled workers, and foreign-born workers averaged a greater number of days than did their counterparts: Unauthorized workers worked an average of 247 days and authorized workers an average of 200 days; settled workers averaged 233 days, while migrant workers averaged 167 days; foreign-born workers worked an average of 232 days and U.S.-born workers an average of 165 days (Figure 6.4).

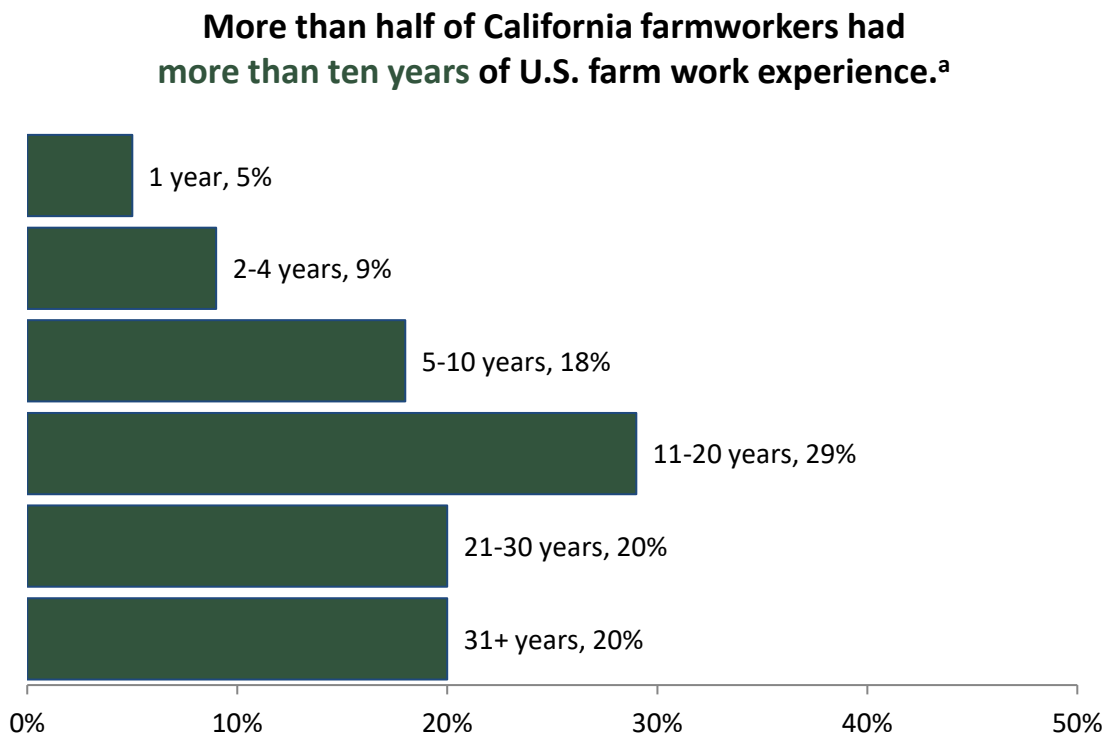
**Figure 6.4: Average Number of Days Worked Per Week at Current Farm Job and Average Number of Days of Farm Work in Previous 12 Months by Farmworker Characteristic, 2015–2019**

Farmworker Characteristic	Average Days Worked Per Week Current Farm Job	Average Days of Farm Work in Previous 12 Months
<b>All California farmworkers</b>	5	225
<b>Migrant</b>	5	167
<b>Settled</b>	5	233
<b>Authorized</b>	5	200
<b>Unauthorized</b>	5	247
<b>U.S.-born</b>	5	165
<b>Foreign-born</b>	5	232

**Years of U.S. Farm Work Experience**

California farmworkers with a full year or more of farm work experience had an average of 19 years of U.S. farm work experience. Thirty-one percent of farmworkers with a full year or more of farm work experience had worked 1 to 10 years in farm jobs, another 49 percent had worked 11 to 30 years in farm jobs, and 20 percent had worked more than 30 years in farm jobs (Figure 6.5).

**Figure 6.5: Years U.S. Farm Work Experience, 2015–2019**



<sup>a</sup> Among workers with at least one year of U.S. farm work experience.

Years of U.S. farm work experience was positively correlated with farm workdays. Respondents who had between one and five years of farm work experience worked an average of 206 days in farm work in the previous 12 months, while those with 11 years or more of experience averaged 238 days of farm work.

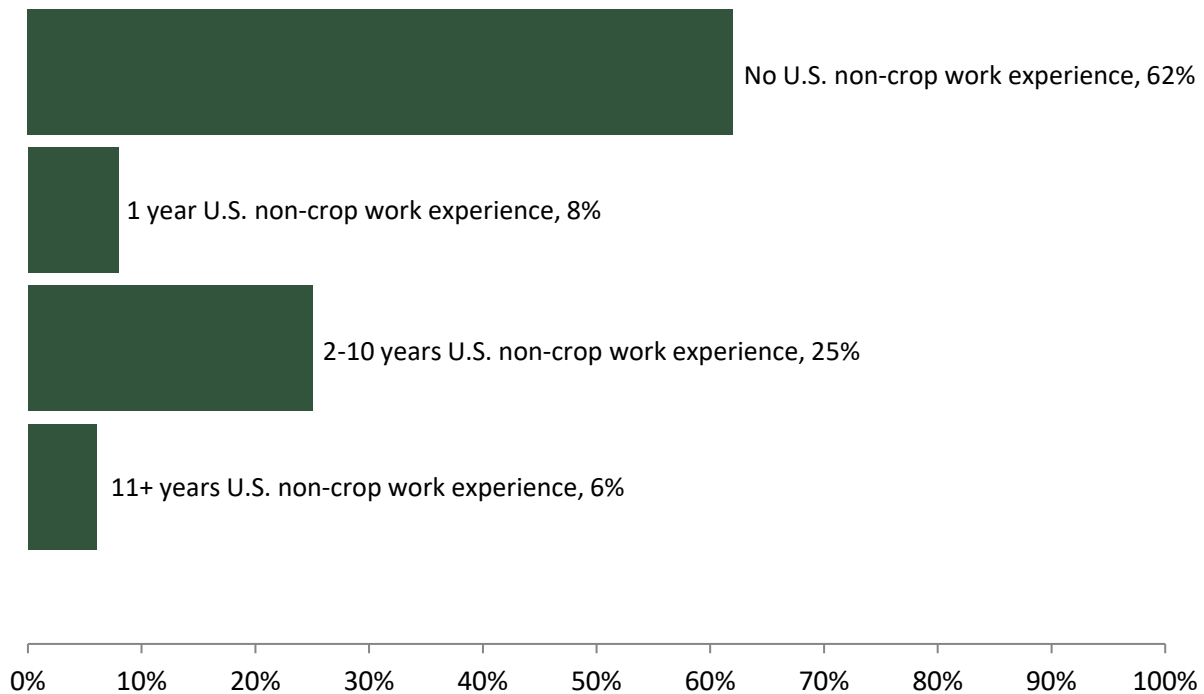
U.S. farm work experience was also related to work authorization. Fifty-five percent of those with less than 1 year of experience were unauthorized, as were 48 percent of those with 10 years or more of experience.

**Other Work History**

Farmworkers were asked to report the approximate number of years they had done non-crop work in the United States. Thirty-eight percent of California farmworkers in 2015–2019 reported at least one year of non-crop work<sup>44</sup> (Figure 6.6), and they had an average of six years of non-crop work experience.

**Figure 6.6: U.S. Non-Crop Work Experience, 2015–2019**

**Almost two-thirds of California farmworkers had performed non-crop work in the United States.**



<sup>44</sup> Any year in which 15 days of non-crop work were performed counts as one year of non-crop work.

Farmworkers were also asked to indicate the last time their parents did hired farm work in the United States. Fifty-one percent of California workers said “never,” 13 percent reported that their parents were doing U.S. farm work “now” or within the last year, 3 percent said their parents last did U.S. farm work 1 to 5 years ago, 4 percent said their parents last did U.S. farm work 6 to 10 years ago, and 28 percent reported that their parents last did U.S. farm work 11 or more years ago. U.S.-born farmworkers reported with much greater frequency than foreign-born farmworkers that their parents did hired farm work in the United States at some time (73% and 45% respectively). See Figure 6.7.

**Figure 6.7: Last Time Parents Did Hired Farm Work in United States, 2015–2019**

Last Time Parents Did U.S. Farm Work	All California		
	Farmworkers	U.S.-Born	Foreign-Born
<b>Never</b>	51%	26%	54%
<b>Now/within last year</b>	13%	27%	11%
<b>1 to 5 years ago</b>	3%	<sup>b</sup>	3%
<b>6 to 10 years ago</b>	4%	6% <sup>a</sup>	4%
<b>More than 10 years ago</b>	28%	37%	27%
<b>Don't know</b>	<1% <sup>a</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	<1% <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.

***Plans to Remain in Farm Work***

When asked how long they expected to continue to do farm work, 83 percent of California workers interviewed in 2015–2019 believed they would continue for more than five years, and most workers indicated that they would continue as long as they are able to do the work (81%). Three percent of respondents stated that they would continue working in agriculture for less than one year, 9 percent planned to remain in farm work for one to three years, 3 percent stated that they would continue in farm work for four to five years, and 2 percent provided an open ended “other” answer (Figure 6.8).

**Figure 6.8: Plans to Remain in Farm Work by Place of Birth and Work Authorization, 2015–2019**

Number of Years	All California Farmworkers	U.S. Born	Foreign Born	Authorized	Unauthorized
<b>Less than one year</b>	3%	6%	3%	5%	2%
<b>1-3 years</b>	9%	24%	7%	11%	7%
<b>4-5 years</b>	3%	4% <sup>a</sup>	3%	2%	3%
<b>Over 5 years</b>	2%	2% <sup>a</sup>	2%	2%	2%
<b>Over 5 years/as long as I am able</b>	81%	62%	83%	79%	83%
<b>Other</b>	2%	2% <sup>a</sup>	3%	2%	3% <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

Settled workers in California are more likely than migrants to indicate that they would continue as long as they are able to do the work (82% and 69% respectively). Similar percentages of male and female farmworkers indicated they planned to continue working as long as they are able (80% and 82% respectively). Farmworkers who did not complete 12<sup>th</sup> grade were more likely than those who completed at least 12<sup>th</sup> grade to indicate that they would continue to as long as they are able (86% and 65% respectively). See Figure 6.9.

**Figure 6.9: Plans to Remain in Farm Work by Migrant Status, Gender, and Educational Attainment, 2015–2019**

Number of Years	Settled	Migrant	Male	Female	Did not complete 12th grade	Completed at least 12th grade
<b>Less than one year</b>	3%	<sup>b</sup>	3%	4% <sup>a</sup>	2%	6%
<b>1-3 years</b>	8%	14%	10%	8%	6%	17%
<b>4-5 years</b>	3%	3% <sup>a</sup>	3%	3%	2%	4%
<b>Over 5 years</b>	2%	2% <sup>a</sup>	2%	2% <sup>a</sup>	2%	2%
<b>Over 5 years/as long as I am able</b>	82%	69%	80%	82%	86%	65%
<b>Other</b>	2%	<sup>b</sup>	3% <sup>a</sup>	2%	2%	5% <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.



California farmworkers ages 25 to 50 or over 50 were the most likely to indicate they would continue to work as long as they are able (85%), compared to farmworkers age 14 to 17 (19%<sup>45</sup>) or 18 to 24 (51%). See Figure 6.10.

**Figure 6.10: Plans to Remain in Farm Work by Age Group, 2015–2019**

Age groups	14-17	18-24	25-50	Over 50
<b>Less than one year</b>	<sup>b</sup>	9% <sup>a</sup>	2%	4% <sup>a</sup>
<b>1-3 years</b>	54%	24%	7%	5%
<b>4-5 years</b>	<sup>b</sup>	6%	3%	2% <sup>a</sup>
<b>Over 5 years</b>	0%	2% <sup>a</sup>	2%	2%
<b>Over 5 years/as long as I am able</b>	19% <sup>a</sup>	51%	85%	85%
<b>Other</b>	0%	<sup>b</sup>	2%	1% <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.

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<sup>45</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

## CHAPTER 7: Non-Crop Work Activities During the Year

### ***Summary of Findings***

- During the previous year, California farmworkers spent an average of nine weeks living in the United States but not working and two weeks abroad.
- Seventeen percent of California farmworkers said they held at least one U.S. non-crop job during the previous year. The most common types of non-crop jobs held were mechanic, repair, or maintenance jobs (35%) and non-crop agriculture jobs (31%).
- About 7 in 10 California farmworkers reported at least one period in the 12 months prior to their interview during which they did not work (69%), and these workers averaged 16 weeks without employment. Twenty-four percent of these respondents said they received UI during at least one of their periods of unemployment.

### ***Time Spent Not Employed or Abroad in Previous 12 Months***

During the previous year, California farmworkers lived in the United States and did not work for an average of nine weeks (17% of the year) and were abroad for an average of two weeks (4% of the year). Number of weeks not working and time spent abroad varied depending on workers' work authorization, migrant status, and place of birth. Unauthorized, migrant, and foreign-born farmworkers spent, on average, fewer weeks in the United States not working (6, 6, and 8 weeks respectively) than authorized, settled, and U.S.-born farmworkers (12, 9, and 14 weeks respectively). Migrant workers averaged 16 weeks abroad during the previous year.<sup>46</sup>

Youth farmworkers in California between the ages of 14 and 17 had the greatest number of weeks not working while in the United States: 36, or more than two thirds of the year. Respondents ages 18 to 24 spent an average of 13 weeks not working and seven weeks abroad, and respondents ages 25 years and older averaged eight to nine weeks in the United States not working and two weeks<sup>47</sup> abroad (Figure 7.1).

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<sup>46</sup> The estimate for number of week abroad for settled workers is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.

<sup>47</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

**Figure 7.1: Average Number of Weeks Not Employed and Abroad in Previous 12 Months, 2015–2019**

Farmworker Characteristic	Weeks in United States and Not Working	Weeks Abroad
<b>All California farmworkers</b>	9	2
<b>Migrant</b>	6	16
<b>Settled</b>	9	<sup>b</sup>
<b>Authorized</b>	12	3
<b>Unauthorized</b>	6	2 <sup>a</sup>
<b>U.S.-born</b>	14	<sup>b</sup>
<b>Foreign-born</b>	8	3
<b>14-17 years old</b>	36	<sup>b</sup>
<b>18-24 years old</b>	13	7
<b>25-50 years old</b>	8	2 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Over 50 years old</b>	9	2

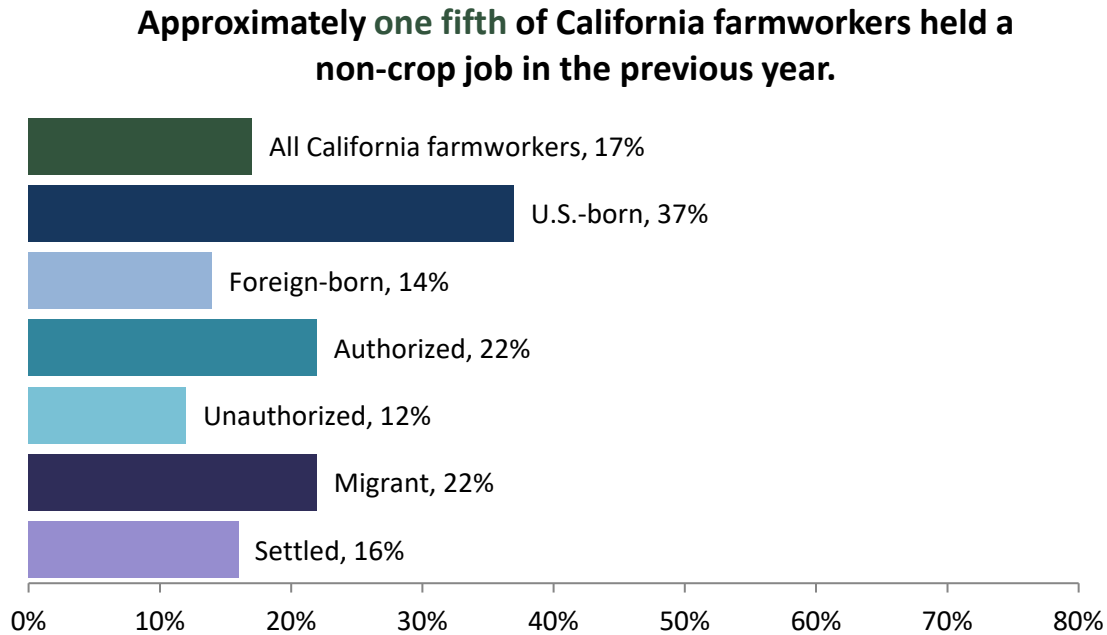
<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.

### ***Non-Crop Work in Previous 12 Months***

Seventeen percent of California farmworkers reported at least one job during the previous year that was not in U.S. crop production. U.S.-born workers were more than twice as likely than foreign-born workers to have had a non-crop job in the previous 12 months (37% compared to 14%), and authorized workers were more likely than unauthorized workers to have had a non-crop job (22% compared to 12%). See Figure 7.2.

**Figure 7.2: Percent of Farmworkers Who Held a Non-Crop Job the Previous Year, 2015–2019**



The 17 percent of California farmworkers who reported doing non-crop work during the previous year spent an average of 23 weeks in non-crop employment, and they held an average of 1 non-crop job. The most common types of non-crop jobs<sup>48</sup> were mechanic, repair, and maintenance (35%) and non-crop agriculture (31%). Twelve percent<sup>49</sup> held a sales, service, or production job in the food industry; 11 percent in structural and extractive work<sup>50</sup>; 6 percent<sup>51</sup> held a sales, service, or manufacturing job in a non-food industry; 3 percent<sup>52</sup> had a professional, technical, or managerial job; and 7 percent<sup>53</sup> held other types of jobs, including clerical, government service, health, arts and entertainment, and transportation (Figure 7.3).

<sup>48</sup> Since the survey's inception, crop workers have been asked about jobs they have had outside of crop agriculture. Some non-crop jobs are farm jobs in other types of agriculture.

<sup>49</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

<sup>50</sup> Structural jobs, as coded in the NAWS, include working in construction. Extractive jobs involve the removal of raw materials from the earth. Examples of extractive processes include oil and gas extraction, mining, dredging and quarrying. <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/extractive-industry.html>

<sup>51</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

<sup>52</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

<sup>53</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 to 50 percent.

**Figure 7.3: Types of Non-Crop Jobs Held in Previous 12 Months, 2015–2019**

Type of Non-Crop Job <sup>a</sup>	Percent of California Workers Who Held At Least One Non-Crop Job
<b>Mechanic/Repair/Maintenance</b>	35%
<b>Non-Crop Agriculture</b>	31%
<b>Food Industry -- Sales/Service/Production</b>	12% <sup>b</sup>
<b>Structural/Extractive Work</b>	11%
<b>Non-food Industry-- Sales/Service/Manufacturing</b>	6% <sup>b</sup>
<b>Professional/Technical/Manager</b>	3% <sup>b</sup>
<b>Other</b>	7% <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Respondents may have reported multiple types of jobs.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

### ***Reasons for Leaving Non-Crop Work in Previous Year***

Fifty-two percent of California workers who had non-crop employment during the previous year left at least one of their non-crop jobs. The NAWS sample included only farmworkers actively employed in crop agriculture at the time of interview. However, some workers hold non-crop jobs and farm jobs simultaneously, and some perform non-crop work for their agricultural employers, thus changing jobs, but not separating from the employer.

Whenever respondents reported separating from an employer, they were asked the reason why. Approximately 6 in 10 California workers (63%) who left a non-crop employer during the previous year reported leaving for voluntary reasons (i.e., “family responsibilities,” “school,” “moved,” “health reason,” “vacation,” “retired,” “quit,” or “changed jobs”). Almost a third of workers (32%) said that their exits from non-crop work were involuntary in nature (“lay off/end of season” or “fired”).<sup>54</sup>

### ***Periods of Unemployment During the Year***

About 7 in 10 California farmworker respondents in 2015–2019 reported at least one period in the 12 months prior to their interview during which they did not work (69%), and these respondents averaged 16 weeks without employment. Each time a respondent reported a period of not working during the 12-month retrospective work history, the respondent was asked about receiving UI benefits during that time. Twenty-four percent of these respondents said that they received UI benefits during at least one of their periods of unemployment.

<sup>54</sup> The remaining workers reported both voluntary and involuntary leaves from non-crop work, but this estimate is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.

## CHAPTER 8: Income, Assets, and Use of Assistance Programs

### *Summary of Findings*

- California farmworkers' mean and median personal incomes the previous year were in the range of \$20,000 to \$24,999. Nine percent of workers earned less than \$10,000; 21 percent earned \$30,000 or more.
- California workers' mean and median total family incomes the previous year were in the range of \$25,000 to \$29,999. Nineteen percent of farmworkers reported total family income of less than \$20,000, another 31 percent said their family income was \$20,000 to \$29,999, and 44 percent had a family income of \$30,000 or more.
- About a quarter of California farmworkers had family incomes below poverty (23%).
- Seventy-six percent of California farmworkers stated that they owned or were buying at least one asset in the United States. The most common assets were a vehicle (reported by 70% of workers) or a dwelling, such as a house, mobile home, condominium, or apartment (35% of workers).
- Twenty percent of California farmworkers reported that they or someone in their household received some form of benefit from a contribution-based government program in the previous two years; 63 percent said someone in their household received some form of benefit from a needs-based government program in the previous two years.

### *Income*

California farmworkers were asked to report their total personal income in the calendar year prior to the year in which they were interviewed. Rather than providing a specific sum, respondents answered the question by indicating a range in which their income fell.

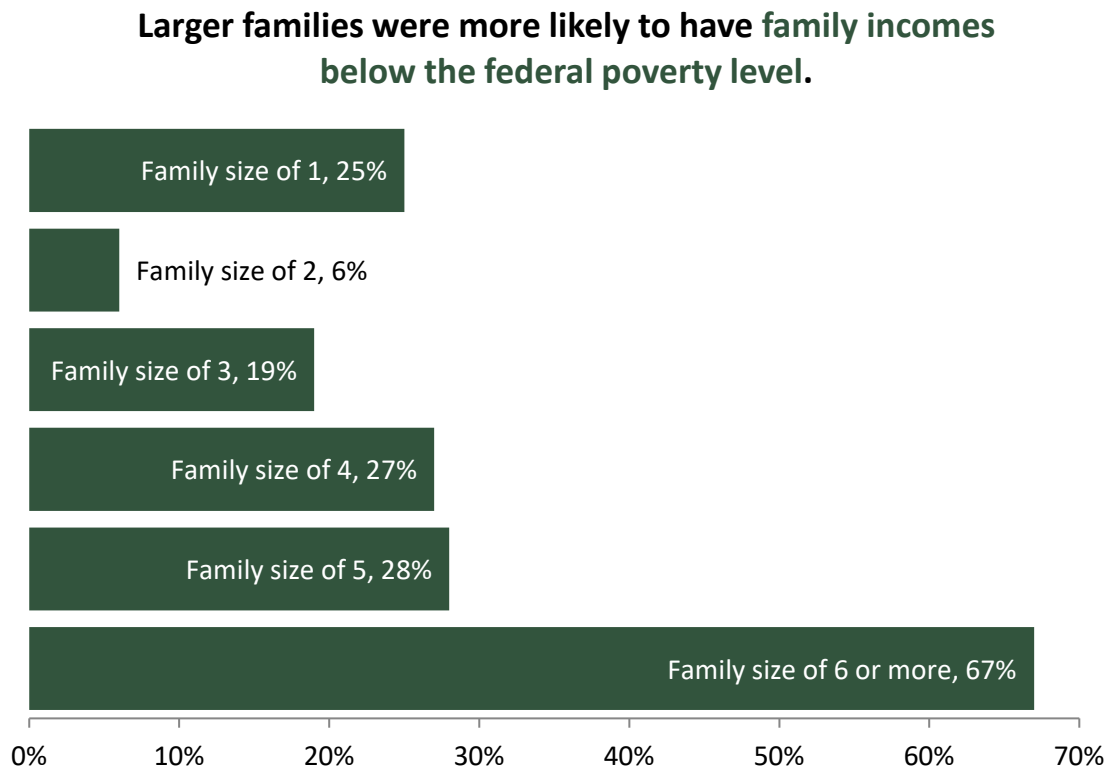
Farmworkers' mean and median personal incomes the previous year were in the range of \$20,000 to \$24,999. Five percent of farmworkers interviewed in 2015–2019 reported that they did not work at all during the prior calendar year, 9 percent said their total personal income was less than \$10,000, 24 percent said they had personal incomes of \$10,000 to \$19,999, another 37 percent had personal incomes of \$20,000 to \$29,999, and 21 percent reported that their total personal income was \$30,000 or more. Two percent of farmworkers said they were unsure of what their personal income was the previous year.

In addition to the question about personal income, workers were asked to report their total family income in the previous calendar year. For this question as well, respondents answered by indicating a range in which their income fell. California workers' mean and median total family incomes the previous year were in the range of \$25,000 to \$29,999. Four percent of farmworkers reported that they or their family had no earned income during the previous calendar year. Six percent of workers said that their total family income the prior year was less than \$10,000, 13 percent said their family income was \$10,000 to \$19,999, 31 percent had a family income of \$20,000 to \$29,999, and 44 percent had a family income of \$30,000 or more. Three percent of farmworkers reported that they did not know their family's total income the previous year.

To determine farmworkers’ poverty status, a poverty threshold was calculated for each worker based on the worker’s family size<sup>55</sup> and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ poverty guidelines<sup>56</sup> for the calendar year preceding the interview. The worker’s family income was then compared to this poverty threshold.<sup>57</sup> Using this method, 23 percent of California farmworkers in 2015–2019 were found to have family incomes below the poverty threshold.

Below-poverty income was more common among California farmworkers with larger families (see Figure 8.1). Over two-thirds of farmworkers with a family size of six or more had incomes below the poverty level (67%), compared to less than a quarter of farmworkers with a family size of three (19%) or about a quarter for a family size of four (27%). Likewise, migrant workers’ family incomes fell below poverty at a much greater rate than settled workers’ (46% compared to 20%), and unauthorized workers were more likely than authorized workers to have below-poverty household incomes (28% and 19% respectively). See Figure 8.2.

**Figure 8.1: Percent of Farmworkers with Total Family Income Below Poverty Level by Family Size, 2015–2019**

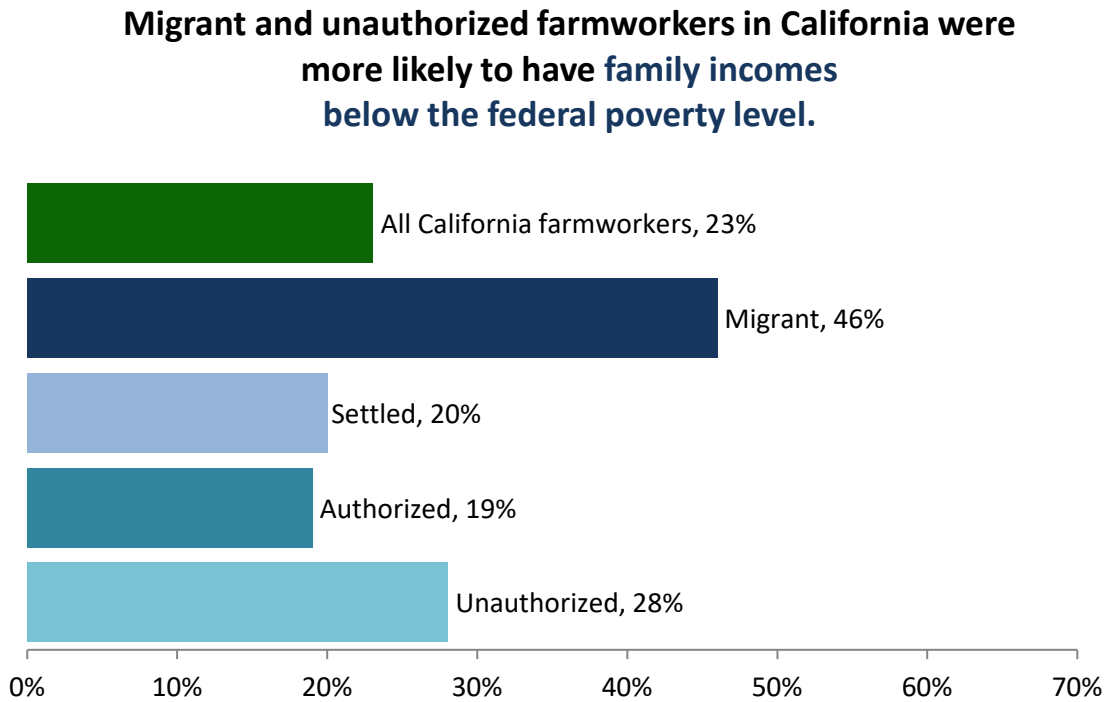


<sup>55</sup> Family size is defined as the number of family members who are living in the United States and who depend on the farmworker’s income. Income was imputed for farmworkers with no income information.

<sup>56</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines (<https://aspe.hhs.gov/prior-hhs-poverty-guidelines-and-federal-register-references>).

<sup>57</sup> Workers’ family income and poverty levels were based on their income in the United States, but were not adjusted for time in the United States. For additional information on the limitations of using traditional poverty statistics with migrant populations please, see Pena’s (2013) article on “Poverty Measurement for a Binational Population.”

**Figure 8.2: Percent of Farmworkers with Total Family Income Below Poverty Level by Farmworker Characteristic, 2015–2019**



**Assets in the United States and Abroad**

California respondents were asked about assets they own or are buying in the United States and, if foreign-born, in their home country. In 2015–2019, three-quarters of all farmworkers stated that they owned or were buying at least one asset in the United States (76%). U.S.-born workers were less likely to report they owned or were buying an asset in the United States (72%) compared to foreign-born workers (76%). Among all workers, the most commonly held asset in the United States was a car or truck (70%), followed by a dwelling (35%). See Figure 8.3. U.S.-born workers were less likely to own or be buying a dwelling in the United States (22%) than were foreign-born workers (37%).

**Figure 8.3: Assets in the United States, 2015–2019**

Type of Asset in the United States	Percent of California Farmworkers
<b>Any asset</b>	76%
<b>A car or truck</b>	70%
<b>A type of housing (house, mobile home, condominium, apartment)</b>	35%

Seventeen percent of foreign-born workers in California reported that they owned or were buying at least one asset abroad. The most frequently reported type of asset was a house (23%), followed by land (10%), and a car or truck (2%).



### **Use of Contribution- and Need-Based Government Programs**

In 2015–2019, California farmworkers were asked whether they or anyone in their household received assistance from either contribution- or need-based programs in the two-year period preceding the interview. Twenty percent of the farmworkers reported that someone in their household received a benefit from at least one contribution-based program, including disability insurance, UI, or Social Security. Seventeen percent of farmworkers reported that they or a family member received payments from UI, 2 percent reported that they or a family member received payments from disability insurance, and 3 percent said that someone in their household received Social Security payments.

Need-based benefits include financial assistance through programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), general assistance or welfare, and publicly provided housing or medical and nutritional assistance such as Medicaid, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).<sup>58</sup> In 2015–2019, 63 percent of California farmworkers reported that they or someone in their household used at least one type of public assistance program in the previous two years. The most utilized programs were Medicaid (52%), public health clinics (16%), SNAP (16%), and WIC (16%). See Figure 8.4.

**Figure 8.4: Percent of Farmworkers Who Reported That a Member of the Household Received Benefits from Contribution- or Needs-Based Government Programs in the Last Two Years, 2015–2019**

Contribution- and Need-Based Programs Utilized	Percent of California Farmworkers
<b>Any contribution-based program</b>	20%
<b>UI</b>	17%
<b>Disability</b>	2%
<b>Social Security</b>	3%
<b>Any need-based program</b>	63%
<b>Medicaid</b>	52%
<b>Public health clinic</b>	16%
<b>SNAP</b>	16%
<b>WIC</b>	16%
<b>Welfare (general assistance) or TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)</b>	3%

<sup>58</sup> The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP used to be named The Federal Food Stamps Program before it was changed in October, 2008.

## CHAPTER 9: Health Care in the United States

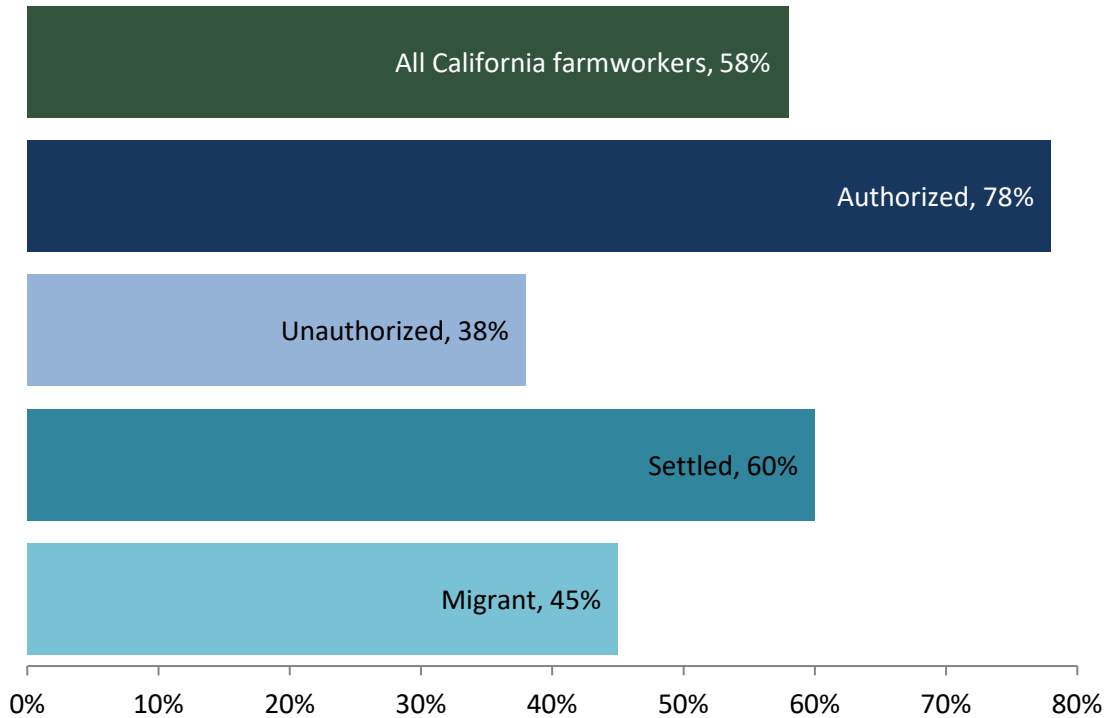
### ***Summary of Findings***

- Fifty-eight percent of California farmworkers reported that they had health insurance and 67 percent said their spouse had health insurance.
- Nine-one percent of California farmworkers said that all of their children had health insurance, and 3 percent said only some of their children had health insurance.
- Sixty-five percent of California farmworkers used a health care provider in the United States sometime in the last two years.
- For California farmworkers who visited a health care provider, the provider for their latest visit was a private medical doctor's office or private clinic (38%), a community health center or migrant health clinic (38%), a dentist (15%), a hospital (6%), or another providers such as a healer, chiropractor, or emergency room (2%).
- A quarter of California farmworkers who visited a health care provider paid for their last visit out of their own pockets (25%): 15 percent were uninsured so they had to pay the full fee; 10 percent had insurance so their out-of-pocket expense was likely a co-payment.
- The most common difficulty California farmworkers faced when they needed to access health care was that health care visits were too expensive (26%).

### ***Health Insurance Coverage for Farmworkers and Family Members***

There were several questions on the survey about health insurance. One question asked workers to indicate who in their family had health insurance in the United States. Fifty-eight percent of California workers responded that they, themselves, had health insurance. Authorized workers and settled workers were much more likely to report having health insurance (78% and 60% respectively) than unauthorized workers and migrant workers (38% and 45% respectively). See Figure 9.1.

Figure 9.1: Percent of Farmworkers with Health Insurance, 2015–2019

**Over half of California farmworkers had health insurance.**

Farmworkers who reported having health insurance were asked to identify the source(s) that provided it (multiple sources could be reported). Fifty-four percent of California farmworkers reported that they had insurance provided by the government, 31 percent said their employer provided them with health insurance, 6 percent said that they or their spouse paid for insurance themselves, 4 percent reported that they had insurance under their spouse’s employer’s plan, another 2 percent reported that they were covered by their parents’ or family’s plan, and 6 percent indicated some other source<sup>59</sup> (Figure 9.2).

<sup>59</sup> “Other” sources included the Affordable Care Act, private health insurance companies (e.g., Aetna, Blue Cross), charity, and retirement/pension plans.

**Figure 9.2: Sources of Farmworkers' Health Insurance, 2015–2019**

Source of Farmworker's Health Insurance <sup>a,b</sup>	Percent of California Farmworkers
<b>Farmworker's/Spouse's self-purchased plan</b>	6%
<b>Farmworker's employer</b>	31%
<b>Spouse's employer</b>	4%
<b>Government program</b>	54%
<b>Parent's/Family's plan</b>	2%
<b>Other</b>	6%

<sup>a</sup> Among the 58 percent of farmworkers who reported that they had health insurance.

<sup>b</sup> Farmworkers may have health insurance through more than one source.

Of the 67 percent of California farmworkers who had a spouse, 67 percent reported that their spouse had health insurance. Among spouses with health insurance, 61 percent received the insurance through a government program, 7 percent were covered by a self-purchased plan, 17 percent were insured through the spouse's own employer, 12 percent were covered by the farmworker's employer plan, and 5 percent indicated some other source (Figure 9.3). Authorized workers reported that their spouses had health insurance at frequency greater frequency than unauthorized workers (81% and 52% respectively).

**Figure 9.3: Sources of Farmworkers' Spouses' Health Insurance, 2015–2019**

Source of Spouse's Health Insurance <sup>a,b</sup>	Percent of California Farmworkers
<b>Farmworker's/Spouse's self-purchased plan</b>	7%
<b>Farmworker's employer</b>	12%
<b>Spouse's employer</b>	17%
<b>Government program</b>	61%
<b>Other</b>	5%

<sup>a</sup> Among the 67 percent of farmworkers who reported that their spouse had health insurance.

<sup>b</sup> Spouses may have health insurance through more than one source.

Among the 50 percent of California farmworkers with minor children, the vast majority reported that all their children had health insurance (91%) while 3 percent reported that only some of their children had health insurance. The majority of these workers said their children's health insurance was provided by government programs (88%). Eight percent of the workers reported that their children were insured through their employer or their spouse's employer, 2 percent<sup>60</sup> said their children were covered by insurance that the worker and/or their spouse purchased on their own, and 1 percent<sup>61</sup> indicated some other source (Figure 9.4). Nearly equal percentages of authorized and unauthorized workers reported that all or some of their children had health insurance (95% and 94% respectively).

<sup>60</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

<sup>61</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

**Figure 9.4: Sources of Farmworkers' Children's Health Insurance, 2015–2019**

Source of Children's Health Insurance <sup>a,b</sup>	Percent of California Farmworkers
Farmworker's/Spouse's self-purchased plan	2% <sup>c</sup>
Farmworker's/Spouse's employer	8%
Government program	88%
Other	1% <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Among the 94 percent of farmworkers who reported that all or some of their children had health insurance.

<sup>b</sup> Children may have health insurance through more than one source.

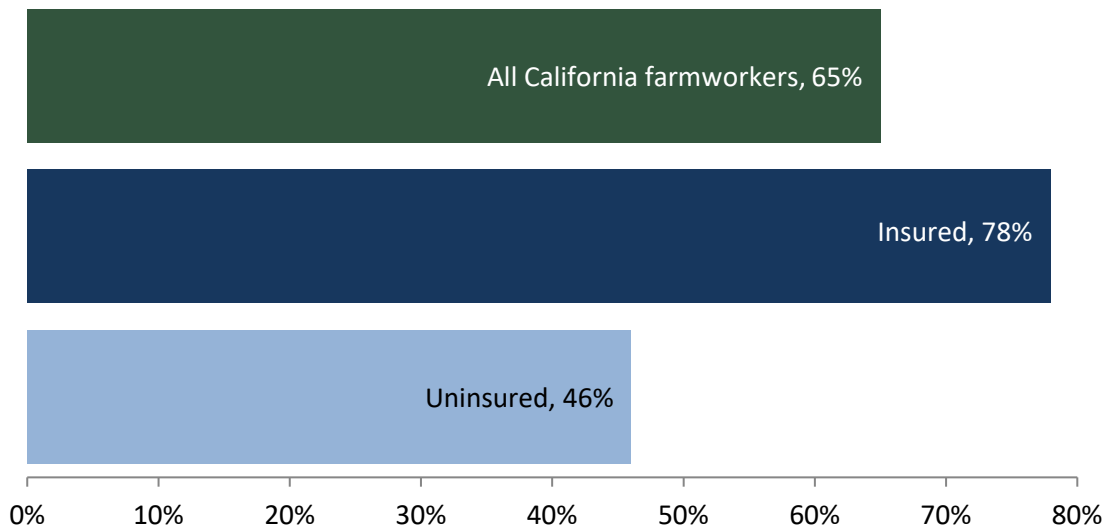
<sup>c</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

**Health Care Utilization and Barriers to Health Care**

In 2015–2019, farmworkers were asked whether, at any time in the two years prior to being interviewed, they had used any type of health care services from doctors, nurses, dentists, clinics, or hospitals in the United States. Sixty-five percent of California farmworkers responded that they had. Workers who had health insurance reported more frequently that they utilized health care services (78%) than did workers who did not have health insurance (46%). See Figure 9.5.

**Figure 9.5: Visited a U.S. Health Care Provider in the Last Two Years by Health Insurance Status, 2015–2019**

**Over two-thirds of California farmworkers visited a U.S. health care provider in the last two years.**

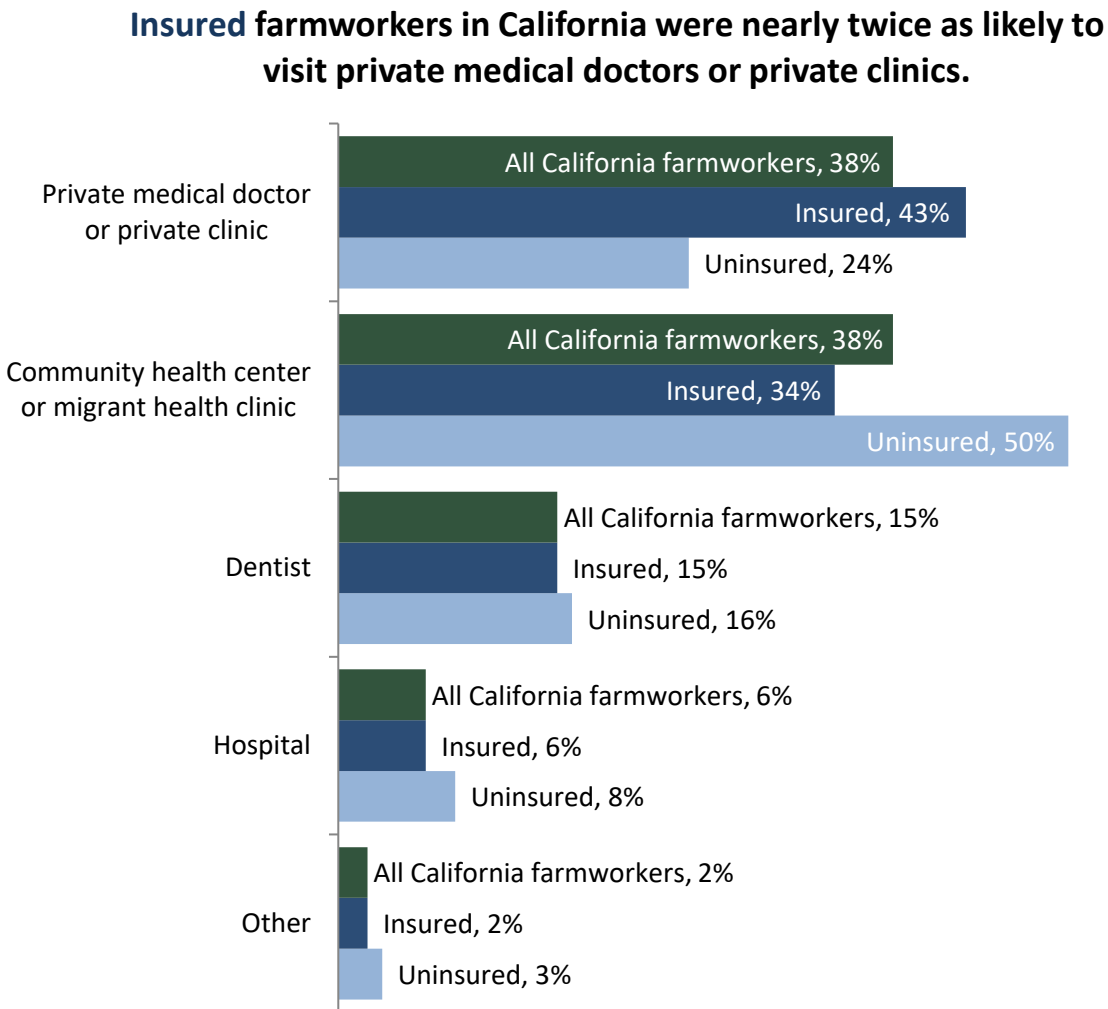


Farmworkers who reported seeking health care in the United States during the last two years were asked what kind of health care provider they used the last time they saw one. Thirty-eight

percent of California workers who had a health care visit said that the last time they used a provider they went to a private medical doctor’s office or private clinic. Thirty-eight percent said they visited a community health center or migrant health clinic, 15 percent saw a dentist, and 6 percent went to a hospital. The remaining 2 percent of workers reportedly used another type of provider, including a healer or “curandero,” an emergency room, a chiropractor, or a naturopath.

The type of health care provider depended on the farmworker’s health insurance status. Insured workers in California were more likely than uninsured workers to visit a private provider (43% compared to 24%) and less likely to visit a community health center or migrant health clinic (34% of insured workers compared to 50% of uninsured workers). See Figure 9.6.

**Figure 9.6: Type of U.S. Health Care Provider Visited by Health Insurance Status, 2015–2019**



*Note:* For the “Other” category, the estimates for insured and uninsured should be interpreted with caution because they have an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

Farmworkers who reported seeking health care in the United States sometime in the last two years were also asked who paid the majority of the cost for their last health care visit. Twenty-

five percent of California workers responded that they paid out of their own pockets: 15 percent were uninsured so they likely had to pay the whole fee out of pocket; 10 percent had insurance, so their out-of-pocket expense was likely a co-payment. Thirty-two percent said that they had Medicaid or Medicare, 8 percent said the majority of the cost was covered by health insurance that they or their family had purchased themselves, and 18 percent of workers reported that the cost was covered by health insurance provided by their employer. Ten percent of the workers stated that they went to a public clinic that did not charge for the visit; 3 percent reported that they used some combination of sources to pay, they were covered by workers' compensation, or that they were billed for service but did not pay; and the remaining 4 percent provided a variety of other responses.<sup>62</sup>

Regardless of whether they reported having used a U.S. health care provider sometime in the last two years, farmworkers were asked to name the types of difficulties they faced when they needed to access health care in the United States. The most common response, provided by 26 percent of California farmworkers interviewed in 2015–2019, was that health care visits were too expensive, and they had no insurance to cover the costs. Fourteen percent of the workers were unable to name any specific barriers because they reported they had never needed health care in the United States.

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<sup>62</sup> Farmworkers who responded with “other” when asked who paid the majority of the cost for their last health care visit specified their response in the following ways: low income program; insurance through a former employer, other employer, labor union, or pension plan; automobile insurance; coverage through the ACA; medical coupon; military insurance or the VA; and medical insurance with no specification about whether it was self-purchased or employer provided.

## APPENDIX A: Methodology

### Overview

The NAWS data come from a nationally representative, random sample of crop farmworkers. During 2015–2019, the NAWS used stratified, multi-stage sampling to account for seasonal and regional fluctuations in the level of farm employment. The stratification included three interviewing cycles per year and 12 geographic regions, resulting in 36 time-by-space strata. For each interviewing cycle, NAWS staff drew a random sample of locations for each of the 12 regions. Together, the 12 regions had a universe of 497 Farm Labor Areas (FLA). FLAs were single- or multi-county sampling units which form the survey’s primary sampling units (PSUs). Counties were the secondary level sampling units, ZIP Code regions were the third, agricultural employers were the fourth, and workers were the fifth.

### Stratification

#### Interviewing Cycles

To account for the seasonality of the industry, interviews were conducted 3 times each year, in cycles lasting 4 months. The cycles started in February, June, and October. The number of interviews conducted in each cycle was proportional to the number of agricultural field workers employed at that time of the year. The USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) provided the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) with the agricultural employment figures for workers hired by agricultural producers, which came from the USDA’s Agricultural Labor Survey (ALS). Figures for workers employed by farm labor contractors were obtained from the BLS Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

#### Regions

Regional stratification entailed defining 12 distinct agricultural regions based on the USDA’s 17 agricultural regions. At the start of the survey in 1988, the 17 regions were collapsed into 12 by combining those regions that were most similar based on statistical analysis of cropping patterns. In each cycle, all 12 agricultural regions were included in the sample. The number of interviews per region was proportional to the size of the seasonal farm labor force in that region at that time of the year, as determined by the NASS and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) using information obtained from the ALS and QCEW.

### Sampling within Strata

#### Farm Labor Areas

Each region was composed of several single- or multi-county sampling units called FLAs. There were 497 FLAs that formed a universe from which sampling locations were selected. FLAs are aggregates of counties that have similar farm labor usage and are roughly similar in size. FLA size is more homogeneous within region than across regions.

The FLA size measure is an estimate of the amount of farm labor in the FLA during a particular cycle. In this case, the measure was based on the hired and contract labor expenses from the most recent Census of Agriculture (CoA) available at the time the sample was drawn. The CoA labor expenses were adjusted using seasonality estimates that identified the percentage of labor expenses that fell into each of the NAWS cycles, fall, spring and summer. The seasonality



estimates were based on monthly data from the QCEW and were constructed by aggregating the reported monthly employment for each month included in the corresponding NAWS cycle (e.g., June, July, August, and September for the summer cycle). The share of employment corresponding to each cycle became the FLA's seasonality estimate.

FLAs were selected in two stages. In the first stage, a roster of approximately 15 FLAs per cycle and region stratum was selected. In the second stage, all the FLAs on each stratum roster were randomly sorted.

### **Counties**

Selecting counties within FLAs was done using an iterative sampling procedure to ensure that an adequate number of counties was selected for each region. In most cases, interviews were completed in the first county within each FLA, and no additional counties were needed.

However, because there was tremendous uncertainty about the number of workers in a county, additional counties were occasionally needed to complete the county allocation. Counties were selected one at a time, without replacement, using probabilities proportional to the size of each county's farm labor expenditures. Interviews began in the first selected county. If the work force within the county was depleted before all the allocated interviews in the FLA were completed, interviewing moved to the second randomly selected county on the list, and so forth, until all the allocated interviews were completed. In FLAs where farm work was sparse, interviewers may have had to travel to several counties to encounter sufficient workers to complete the FLA allocation.

### **ZIP Code Regions**

Prior to generating lists of employers, sampled counties were divided into ZIP Code regions, which were smaller areas based on geographic proximity. A small county might be a single ZIP code region, while a large county might have multiple regions. In a county with multiple ZIP Code regions, the regions were designed to be roughly equal in size.

When there were multiple ZIP Code regions in a county, the regions were randomly sorted to produce a list that determined the order in which the areas would be visited. Field staff contacted agricultural employers in the first ZIP Code region on the list and moved down the list, following the random order, until the interview allocation for the FLA was filled or the county's workforce was exhausted.

### **Employers**

Within each selected ZIP Code region, interviewers received a list of randomly sorted agricultural employers. The list was compiled from marketing and administrative lists of employers in crop agriculture. An important component of the list was employer names in selected North American Industrial Classification Codes that the BLS provided directly to the contractor per the terms of an interagency agreement between the ETA and the BLS.

### **Workers**

Once the randomly selected employer was located, the NAWS interviewer explained the purpose of the survey and obtained access to the work site to schedule interviews. If the employer was not familiar with his or her work force, the interviewer sought the name of the manager, personnel manager, farm labor contractor, or crew leader who could help construct a sampling frame of the

workers in the operation. Interviewers documented the number of workers employed on the day of worker selection to construct worker selection probabilities.

When the number of workers available for interview was greater than the number of interviews allocated, the selection of workers for interview followed specific sampling instructions designed by a sampling statistician to ensure selection of a random sample of workers at each selected employer. Only workers who were employed in agriculture at the time of the interview were included in the sample. Selected workers were usually interviewed at the worksite, either before or after work or during breaks. Respondents may have also been interviewed at another location if that was more convenient for them. Respondents received a 20-dollar honorarium for participating in the survey.

### **Weighting**

The NAWS used a variety of weighting factors to construct weights for calculating unbiased population estimates.

- Sampling weights were calculated based on each sample member's probability of selection at the FLA, county, ZIP Code region, employer and worker level.
- Non-response factors were used to correct sampling weights for deviations from the sampling plan, such as discrepancies in the number of interviews planned and collected in specific locations.
- Post-sampling adjustment factors were used to adjust the weights given to each interview in order to compute unbiased population estimates from the sample data.

A full explanation of how the weights were calculated can be found in the *Statistical Methods of the National Agricultural Workers Survey* available at the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration's National Agricultural Workers Survey website ([https://www.doleta.gov/naws/methodology/docs/NAWS\\_Statistical\\_Methods\\_AKA\\_Supporting\\_Statement\\_Part\\_B.pdf](https://www.doleta.gov/naws/methodology/docs/NAWS_Statistical_Methods_AKA_Supporting_Statement_Part_B.pdf)).

### **Reliability of Estimates**

One measure of sampling error is the relative standard error (RSE), a measure of relative dispersion of the data. The RSE is calculated by dividing the standard error of the estimate (mean or percentage) by the estimate itself and reporting the result as a percentage. Higher RSE's indicate that the estimate of the mean may not represent the true mean of the distribution of responses.<sup>63</sup>

For the purpose of reporting data, the NAWS has adopted the following data suppression rules.

- Estimates with RSEs greater than 30 percent but no more than 50 percent are published, but should be used with caution.
- Estimates with RSEs greater than 50 percent are considered statistically unreliable and are suppressed.

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<sup>63</sup> Sommer, J. E., Green, R., & Korb, P (1998). *Structural and Financial Characteristics of U.S. Farms, 1995: 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Farm Report to Congress* ([https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/42178/32556\\_aib746\\_002.pdf?v=42487](https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/42178/32556_aib746_002.pdf?v=42487)). Agriculture Information Bulletin No. (AIB-746), 118 pp, December 1998 (p. 62).

**APPENDIX B: Index of Percentages and Means for Key Variables**

The following tables list the names, descriptions, and categories of the key variables analyzed for this report, as well as the estimates (percentages or means) reported and the 95 percent confidence limits, standard errors, and relative standard errors (RSEs) of the estimates. Estimates with RSEs higher than 30 percent are identified throughout the tables. The RSE is calculated by dividing the standard error of the estimate by the estimate itself. Estimates with RSEs greater than 30 percent but no more than 50 percent are published, but should be used with caution; these are identified with a superscript ‘a.’ Estimates based on fewer than four observations or with RSEs greater than 50 percent are considered statistically unreliable and are suppressed from the tables. Suppressed statistics are indicated with a superscript ‘b.’

**Chapter 1**

Variable	Variable Description	Variable Level(s)	Number of Observations	Estimate (Percentage or Mean)	Standard Error	95% Lower Confidence Limit	95% Upper Confidence Limit	Relative Standard Error
A07	Country of birth	US or Puerto Rico	317	12%	1.7%	8%	15%	14%
A07	Country of birth	Mexico	3,131	84%	1.4%	81%	87%	2%
A07	Country of birth	Central America	112	4%	1.1%	2%	6%	26%
A07	Country of birth	Other (South America, Caribbean, South East Asia, Pacific Islands, Asia)	22	<1% <sup>a</sup>	0.1%	0%	0%	31%
HISP	Hispanic	Hispanic	3,468	96%	1.1%	93%	98%	1%
B01	Hispanic category	Mexican-American	351	10%	1.5%	7%	13%	14%
B01	Hispanic category	Mexican	2,958	80%	1.6%	77%	83%	2%
B01	Hispanic category	Chicano, Puerto Rican, or other Hispanic	159	5%	1.1%	3%	7%	21%
B01	Hispanic category	Not Hispanic or Latino	105	4%	1.1%	2%	7%	24%
B02	Race	White	647	16%	1.8%	13%	20%	11%
B02	Race	Black/African American	3	0%	0.0%	0%	0%	54%
B02	Race	American Indian/Alaska Native	13	0%	0.1%	0%	0%	48%
B02	Race	Other	2,909	84%	1.8%	80%	87%	2%
B02	Race	Refused to answer	1	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	86%
INDIGENOUS	Farmworker is indigenous	Farmworker is indigenous	292	9%	1.4%	6%	12%	16%

**Appendix B: Index of Percentages and Means for Key Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Variable Description</b>	<b>Variable Level(s)</b>	<b>Number of Observations</b>	<b>Estimate (Percentage or Mean)</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>95% Lower Confidence Limit</b>	<b>95% Upper Confidence Limit</b>	<b>Relative Standard Error</b>
USSTAY	Years in US	Average	3,260	21	0.5	20	22	2%
USSTAY	Years in US	Less than 1 year (newcomer)	21	2% <sup>a</sup>	1.0%	0%	4%	48%
USSTAY	Years in US	1–4 years	166	6%	0.7%	5%	8%	12%
USSTAY	Years in US	5–9 years	296	8%	0.6%	7%	9%	7%
USSTAY	Years in US	10–14 years	535	18%	1.6%	15%	21%	9%
USSTAY	Years in US	15–19 years	569	18%	1.2%	15%	20%	7%
USSTAY	Years in US	20–29 years	806	25%	1.6%	21%	28%	7%
USSTAY	Years in US	30–39 years	601	16%	1.5%	14%	19%	9%
USSTAY	Years in US	40+ years	266	7%	0.9%	5%	9%	13%
B18 (by A07)	State of birth (by country of birth)	Baja California (among country of birth is Mexico)	170	7%	1.2%	4%	9%	18%
B18 (by A07)	State of birth (by country of birth)	Guanajuato (among country of birth is Mexico)	398	10%	0.9%	9%	12%	8%
B18 (by A07)	State of birth (by country of birth)	Guerrero (among country of birth is Mexico)	163	5%	0.8%	3%	6%	17%
B18 (by A07)	State of birth (by country of birth)	Jalisco (among country of birth is Mexico)	430	13%	1.4%	10%	16%	11%
B18 (by A07)	State of birth (by country of birth)	Michoacán (among country of birth is Mexico)	824	30%	2.4%	25%	35%	8%
B18 (by A07)	State of birth (by country of birth)	Oaxaca (among country of birth is Mexico)	367	10%	1.5%	7%	13%	16%
CURRSTAT	Current status	Citizen	610	19%	2.0%	15%	22%	11%
CURRSTAT	Current status	Lawful permanent resident	953	29%	2.5%	24%	33%	9%
CURRSTAT	Current status	Other work authorized	63	2%	0.5%	1%	3%	25%
CURRSTAT	Current status	Unauthorized	1,920	51%	3.5%	44%	58%	7%
MIGRANT	Migrant	Migrant	386	13%	1.9%	10%	17%	14%

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.

Chapter 2

Variable	Variable Description	Variable Level(s)	Number of Observations	Estimate (Percentage or Mean)	Standard Error	95% Lower Confidence Limit	95% Upper Confidence Limit	Relative Standard Error
GENDER	Gender	Male	2,831	69%	3.7%	62%	76%	5%
GENDER	Gender	Female	751	31%	3.7%	24%	38%	12%
AGE	Age	Average	3,576	40	0.5	39	41	1%
AGE	Age	14–19	69	3%	0.5%	2%	4%	16%
AGE	Age	20–24	281	10%	1.1%	8%	12%	11%
AGE	Age	25–34	872	24%	1.4%	21%	26%	6%
AGE	Age	35–44	913	25%	1.8%	22%	29%	7%
AGE	Age	45–54	800	23%	1.5%	20%	25%	7%
AGE	Age	55–64	506	13%	1.2%	10%	15%	9%
AGE	Age	65 and over	135	3%	0.6%	2%	5%	17%
MARRIED, FWPARENT	Farmworker is married, Farmworker is a parent	Unmarried, no children	831	25%	1.6%	22%	28%	6%
MARRIED, FWPARENT	Farmworker is married, Farmworker is a parent	Unmarried, children	342	13%	1.3%	10%	15%	10%
MARRIED, FWPARENT	Farmworker is married, Farmworker is a parent	Married, no children	635	17%	1.3%	14%	19%	8%
MARRIED, FWPARENT	Farmworker is married, Farmworker is a parent	Married, children	1,768	46%	1.5%	43%	49%	3%

**Appendix B: Index of Percentages and Means for Key Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Variable Description</b>	<b>Variable Level(s)</b>	<b>Number of Observations</b>	<b>Estimate (Percentage or Mean)</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>95% Lower Confidence Limit</b>	<b>95% Upper Confidence Limit</b>	<b>Relative Standard Error</b>
HKIDLT18 (by FWPARENT)	Number of children under age 18 in the household (by farmworker is a parent)	Average (among farmworker parents)	1,681	2	0.05	2	2	2%
HKIDLT18 (by FWPARENT)	Number of children under age 18 in the household (by farmworker is a parent)	1 child (among farmworker parents)	560	31%	2.5%	26%	36%	8%
HKIDLT18 (by FWPARENT)	Number of children under age 18 in the household (by farmworker is a parent)	2 children (among farmworker parents)	612	39%	2.3%	35%	43%	6%
HKIDLT18 (by FWPARENT)	Number of children under age 18 in the household (by farmworker is a parent)	3 children (among farmworker parents)	338	20%	1.7%	16%	23%	9%
HKIDLT18 (by FWPARENT)	Number of children under age 18 in the household (by farmworker is a parent)	4 children (among farmworker parents)	139	8%	1.1%	6%	10%	13%
HKIDLT18 (by FWPARENT)	Number of children under age 18 in the household (by farmworker is a parent)	5 or more children (among farmworker parents)	32	2% <sup>a</sup>	0.7%	1%	3%	32%
ACCOMP	Nuclear family lives in household	Unaccompanied	1,127	32%	2.0%	29%	36%	6%
ACCOMP	Nuclear family lives in household	Accompanied	2,455	68%	2.0%	64%	71%	3%

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.

Chapter 3

Variable	Variable Description	Variable Level(s)	Number of Observations	Estimate (Percentage or Mean)	Standard Error	95% Lower Confidence Limit	95% Upper Confidence Limit	Relative Standard Error
PRIMLANG	Adult primary language (2015–2017)	English	178	8%	1.5%	5%	11%	18%
PRIMLANG	Adult primary language (2015–2017)	Spanish	2,398	89%	1.8%	85%	92%	2%
PRIMLANG	Adult primary language (2015–2017)	Indigenous	71	3% <sup>a</sup>	1.0%	1%	5%	36%
PRIMLANG	Adult primary language (2015–2017)	Other	11	<1% <sup>a</sup>	0.0%	0%	0%	38%
PRIMLANG18	Adult primary language (2018–2019)	English	57	7% <sup>a</sup>	2.2%	1%	12%	33%
PRIMLANG18	Adult primary language (2018–2019)	Spanish	751	80%	2.8%	73%	88%	4%
PRIMLANG18	Adult primary language (2018–2019)	Indigenous	19	b	b	b	b	52%
PRIMLANG18	Adult primary language (2018–2019)	Other	6	b	b	b	b	56%
PRIMLANG18	Adult primary language (2018–2019)	Bilingual Spanish/English	43	5% <sup>a</sup>	2.2%	0%	11%	43%
PRIMLANG18	Adult primary language (2018–2019)	Multilingual	30	7% <sup>a</sup>	3.0%	0%	14%	46%
HIGHGRDE	Highest grade completed	Average	3,582	8	0.1	8	8	2%
HIGHGRDE	Highest grade completed	No schooling	139	3%	0.3%	2%	3%	12%
HIGHGRDE	Highest grade completed	K–6 <sup>th</sup> grade	1,693	43%	1.6%	40%	46%	4%
HIGHGRDE	Highest grade completed	7 <sup>th</sup> –9 <sup>th</sup> grade	764	23%	1.3%	20%	25%	6%
HIGHGRDE	Highest grade completed	10 <sup>th</sup> –12 <sup>th</sup> grade	792	24%	1.8%	21%	28%	7%
HIGHGRDE	Highest grade completed	More than 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	193	7%	1.1%	5%	9%	16%
ADULTED	Attended any adult education	No	2,451	75%	1.8%	71%	78%	2%
ADULTED	Attended any adult education	Yes	1,131	25%	1.8%	22%	29%	7%

**Appendix B: Index of Percentages and Means for Key Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Variable Description</b>	<b>Variable Level(s)</b>	<b>Number of Observations</b>	<b>Estimate (Percentage or Mean)</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>95% Lower Confidence Limit</b>	<b>95% Upper Confidence Limit</b>	<b>Relative Standard Error</b>
B03ax	Attended English/ESL	Yes	489	15%	1.3%	12%	17%	9%
B03bx	Attended citizenship classes	Yes	103	4%	0.9%	2%	5%	24%
B03dx	Attended job training	Yes	569	22%	2.6%	17%	27%	12%
B03ex	Attended GED, high school equivalency	Yes	58	2%	0.4%	1%	3%	23%
B03fx	Attended college/university	Yes	74	4%	1.3%	2%	7%	29%
B03jx	Attended 'other'	Yes	73	2%	0.4%	2%	3%	17%
B07	Ability to speak English	Not at all	1,259	35%	2.0%	31%	39%	6%
B07	Ability to speak English	A little	1,357	36%	1.9%	32%	40%	5%
B07	Ability to speak English	Somewhat	478	13%	1.5%	10%	16%	11%
B07	Ability to speak English	Well	483	16%	1.5%	13%	19%	10%
B08	Ability to read English	Not at all	1,703	47%	2.3%	42%	51%	5%
B08	Ability to read English	A little	1,071	27%	1.5%	24%	30%	6%
B08	Ability to read English	Somewhat	328	11%	1.7%	8%	15%	15%
B08	Ability to read English	Well	474	15%	1.3%	12%	18%	9%
B22b	Ability to speak Spanish	A little	0	0%	0.0%	0%	0%	---
B22b	Ability to speak Spanish	Somewhat	41	2%	0.4%	1%	3%	24%
B22b	Ability to speak Spanish	Well	2,352	98%	0.4%	97%	99%	0%
B23b	Ability to read Spanish	Not at all	45	1%	0.2%	1%	1%	17%
B23b	Ability to read Spanish	A little	129	5%	0.7%	3%	6%	15%
B23b	Ability to read Spanish	Somewhat	252	13%	1.4%	10%	16%	11%
B23b	Ability to read Spanish	Well	1,964	82%	1.4%	79%	84%	2%

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.



Chapter 4

Variable	Variable Description	Variable Level(s)	Number of Observations	Estimate (Percentage or Mean)	Standard Error	95% Lower Confidence Limit	95% Upper Confidence Limit	Relative Standard Error
D35trend	Location of housing while at current farm job	Off farm, in property not owned by current employer	3,075	90%	1.5%	87%	92%	2%
D35trend	Location of housing while at current farm job	Off farm, in property owned by current employer	60	1%	0.4%	1%	2%	29%
D35trend	Location of housing while at current farm job	On farm of employer I currently work for	396	8%	1.0%	6%	10%	12%
D35trend	Location of housing while at current farm job	Other	19	b	b	b	b	59%
D33a	Payment arrangement for living quarters	EMPLOYER-PROVIDED: I pay for housing provided by my employer	127	3%	0.6%	2%	4%	19%
D33a	Payment arrangement for living quarters	EMPLOYER-PROVIDED: I receive free housing from my employer	268	5%	0.8%	4%	7%	16%
D33a	Payment arrangement for living quarters	EMPLOYER-PROVIDED: Other arrangement	65	1%	0.2%	1%	2%	17%
D33a	Payment arrangement for living quarters	I pay for housing provided by government, charity, other organization	47	2%	0.5%	1%	3%	29%
D33a	Payment arrangement for living quarters	I (or family member) own the house	677	21%	1.8%	18%	25%	9%
D33a	Payment arrangement for living quarters	I rent from non-employer/non-relative	2,382	67%	2.2%	63%	72%	3%
D33a	Payment arrangement for living quarters	Other	11	1% <sup>a</sup>	0.3%	0%	1%	48%

**Appendix B: Index of Percentages and Means for Key Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Variable Description</b>	<b>Variable Level(s)</b>	<b>Number of Observations</b>	<b>Estimate (Percentage or Mean)</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>95% Lower Confidence Limit</b>	<b>95% Upper Confidence Limit</b>	<b>Relative Standard Error</b>
D50MTCOD	How much paid for housing per month (coded)	Under \$200	155	6%	1.6%	3%	9%	27%
D50MTCOD	How much paid for housing per month (coded)	\$200–299	241	10%	1.8%	7%	14%	18%
D50MTCOD	How much paid for housing per month (coded)	\$300–399	282	11%	0.9%	9%	12%	9%
D50MTCOD	How much paid for housing per month (coded)	\$400–499	248	8%	1.0%	6%	10%	12%
D50MTCOD	How much paid for housing per month (coded)	\$500–599	322	11%	1.0%	9%	13%	9%
D50MTCOD	How much paid for housing per month (coded)	\$600 or more	1,322	54%	3.2%	48%	60%	6%
D34trend	Type of housing	Mobile home	525	12%	1.0%	10%	14%	8%
D34trend	Type of housing	Single-family home	1,974	57%	2.4%	52%	62%	4%
D34trend	Type of housing	Apartment	934	27%	1.9%	23%	31%	7%
D34trend	Type of housing	Other (includes duplex or triplex, dormitory or barracks, motel or hotel, and ‘other’)	141	4%	1.1%	2%	6%	27%
D54a	Number of bedrooms in current living quarters	Average	3,578	3	0.05	2	3	2%
D54b	Number of bathrooms in current living quarters	Average	3,577	1	0.02	1	2	1%
D54c	Number of kitchens in current living quarters	Average	3,577	1	0.00	1	1	0%
D54f	Number of other rooms in current living quarters	Average	3,573	1	0.04	1	1	6%

**Appendix B: Index of Percentages and Means for Key Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Variable Description</b>	<b>Variable Level(s)</b>	<b>Number of Observations</b>	<b>Estimate (Percentage or Mean)</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>95% Lower Confidence Limit</b>	<b>95% Upper Confidence Limit</b>	<b>Relative Standard Error</b>
CROWDED1	Household is crowded, based on U.S. Census Bureau definition of a crowded household as one in which the number of persons per room exceeds one	Crowded	1,348	35%	1.8%	32%	39%	5%
D37a	Distance of current farm job from current residence	I'm located at the job	374	7%	0.9%	5%	9%	13%
D37a	Distance of current farm job from current residence	Within 9 miles	1,126	31%	2.0%	27%	35%	7%
D37a	Distance of current farm job from current residence	10–24 miles	1,483	45%	2.3%	40%	49%	5%
D37a	Distance of current farm job from current residence	25–49 miles	512	16%	1.7%	12%	19%	11%
D37a	Distance of current farm job from current residence	50+ miles	81	2%	0.2%	1%	2%	16%
D37	Mode of transportation to work	Drive car	2,354	65%	1.6%	62%	68%	2%
D37	Mode of transportation to work	Walk / public transportation / other	288	6%	0.9%	4%	8%	16%
D37	Mode of transportation to work	Ride with others	374	12%	1.3%	10%	15%	11%
D37	Mode of transportation to work	Labor bus, truck, van	66	2%	0.6%	1%	4%	29%
D37	Mode of transportation to work	Raitero	489	14%	1.6%	11%	17%	11%
D38a	Transport is mandatory	Yes	31	6% <sup>a</sup>	2.0%	2%	10%	32%
D38	Pay a fee for rides to work	No	182	20%	3.0%	14%	26%	15%
D38	Pay a fee for rides to work	Yes, a fee	337	37%	3.9%	29%	44%	11%
D38	Pay a fee for rides to work	Yes, just for gas	421	43%	3.7%	36%	51%	8%

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.

Chapter 5

Variable	Variable Description	Variable Level(s)	Number of Observations	Estimate (Percentage or Mean)	Standard Error	95% Lower Confidence Limit	95% Upper Confidence Limit	Relative Standard Error
FLC	Employer is a farm labor contractor	Employer: Grower, nursery, packing house	2,757	72%	3.8%	64%	79%	5%
FLC	Employer is a farm labor contractor	Employer: Farm labor contractor	825	28%	3.8%	21%	36%	14%
D30	How current job was obtained	Applied for the job on my own	854	23%	1.6%	20%	26%	7%
D30	How current job was obtained	Recruited by a grower/his foreman	160	4%	1.0%	2%	6%	23%
D30	How current job was obtained	Recruited by farm labor contractor/his foreman	79	2%	0.4%	1%	2%	24%
D30	How current job was obtained	Referred by the employment service, welfare office, labor union, other means	48	1%	0.2%	1%	1%	20%
D30	How current job was obtained	Referred by relative/friend/workmate	2,437	70%	2.1%	66%	74%	3%
CROP	Primary crop at time of interview	Field crops	190	5%	1.1%	2%	7%	23%
CROP	Primary crop at time of interview	Fruits and nuts	2,007	54%	3.7%	46%	61%	7%
CROP	Primary crop at time of interview	Horticulture	526	14%	3.5%	7%	21%	25%
CROP	Primary crop at time of interview	Vegetables	775	25%	3.5%	18%	32%	14%
CROP	Primary crop at time of interview	Miscellaneous crops	84	b	b	b	b	54%
TASK	Primary task at time of interview	Pre-harvest	987	25%	2.2%	21%	29%	9%
TASK	Primary task at time of interview	Harvest	750	23%	2.7%	17%	28%	12%
TASK	Primary task at time of interview	Post-harvest	451	19%	3.1%	13%	26%	16%
TASK	Primary task at time of interview	Technical	1,391	33%	2.8%	27%	38%	9%
D04	Number of hours worked the previous week at current farm job	Average	3,492	47	1.32	45	50	3%

**Appendix B: Index of Percentages and Means for Key Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Variable Description</b>	<b>Variable Level(s)</b>	<b>Number of Observations</b>	<b>Estimate (Percentage or Mean)</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>95% Lower Confidence Limit</b>	<b>95% Upper Confidence Limit</b>	<b>Relative Standard Error</b>
D11	Basis of pay	By the hour	3,141	86%	2.2%	82%	90%	3%
D11	Basis of pay	By the piece	271	10%	2.2%	6%	14%	22%
D11	Basis of pay	Combination hourly wage and piece rate	49	1% <sup>a</sup>	0.6%	0%	3%	45%
D11	Basis of pay	Salary or other	118	2%	0.5%	1%	3%	21%
WAGET1	Hourly wage for primary task	Average	3,505	\$12.13	0.15	\$11.83	\$12.43	1%
D20x	In last 12 months, received money bonus from current employer	No	1,467	61%	3.0%	55%	67%	5%
D20x	In last 12 months, received money bonus from current employer	Yes	1,095	29%	2.6%	24%	34%	9%
D20x	In last 12 months, received money bonus from current employer	Don't know	96	10%	2.3%	5%	15%	23%
D21ax	Holiday bonus	Yes	579	56%	3.2%	49%	62%	6%
D21bx	Incentive bonus	Yes	113	17%	2.4%	12%	22%	14%
D21cx	Dependent on grower profit	Yes	43	5%	0.8%	3%	6%	18%
D21dx	End of season bonus	Yes	314	24%	2.5%	19%	29%	11%
D21fx	Other bonus	Yes	20	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	51%
NS01	Employer provides clean drinking water and disposable cups every day	No water, no cups	109	2%	0.5%	1%	3%	24%
NS01	Employer provides clean drinking water and disposable cups every day	Yes, water only	139	3%	0.6%	2%	4%	18%
NS01	Employer provides clean drinking water and disposable cups every day	Yes, water and disposable cups	3,327	95%	0.8%	93%	96%	1%
NS04	Employer provides a toilet every day	Yes	3,533	99%	0.2%	99%	100%	0%
NS09	Employer provides water to wash hands every day	Yes	3,524	99%	0.2%	99%	100%	0%
NT02a	Current employer provided training in safe use of pesticides in last 12 months	Yes	2,541	68%	3.2%	62%	74%	5%

**Appendix B: Index of Percentages and Means for Key Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Variable Description</b>	<b>Variable Level(s)</b>	<b>Number of Observations</b>	<b>Estimate (Percentage or Mean)</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>95% Lower Confidence Limit</b>	<b>95% Upper Confidence Limit</b>	<b>Relative Standard Error</b>
D26	Covered by Unemployment Insurance	No	1,951	51%	3.5%	44%	58%	7%
D26	Covered by Unemployment Insurance	Yes	1,554	46%	3.4%	39%	53%	7%
D26	Covered by Unemployment Insurance	Don't know	70	3%	0.6%	2%	4%	20%
D23	Receive workers' compensation if injured at work or get sick as a result of work	No	303	6%	1.0%	4%	8%	17%
D23	Receive workers' compensation if injured at work or get sick as a result of work	Yes	2,772	78%	2.2%	74%	83%	3%
D23	Receive workers' compensation if injured at work or get sick as a result of work	Don't know	503	15%	1.9%	12%	19%	12%
D24	Employer provides health insurance or pays for health care for injuries or illness while off the job	No	2,400	60%	2.6%	55%	66%	4%
D24	Employer provides health insurance or pays for health care for injuries or illness while off the job	Yes	961	31%	2.8%	25%	36%	9%
D24	Employer provides health insurance or pays for health care for injuries or illness while off the job	Don't know	215	9%	1.6%	6%	12%	18%

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.

Chapter 6

Variable	Variable Description	Variable Level(s)	Number of Observations	Estimate (Percentage or Mean)	Standard Error	95% Lower Confidence Limit	95% Upper Confidence Limit	Relative Standard Error
NUMFEMPL	Number of farm employers in previous 12 months	Average	3582	1	0.04	1	1	3%
NUMFEMPL	Number of farm employers in previous 12 months	1 employer	2791	76%	1.8%	72%	79%	2%
NUMFEMPL	Number of farm employers in previous 12 months	2 employers	517	16%	1.5%	13%	19%	9%
NUMFEMPL	Number of farm employers in previous 12 months	3 or more employers	274	8%	1.0%	6%	10%	12%
D27	Number of years with current employer	Average	3527	8	0.4	7	9	5%
D27	Number of years with current employer	1 year or less	514	20%	1.7%	16%	23%	9%
D27	Number of years with current employer	2–4 years	1126	32%	1.9%	29%	36%	6%
D27	Number of years with current employer	5–10 years	884	23%	1.4%	20%	25%	6%
D27	Number of years with current employer	11–20 years	637	16%	1.5%	13%	19%	9%
D27	Number of years with current employer	21 or more years	366	9%	1.2%	7%	12%	13%
FWWEEKS	Number of weeks of farm work the previous year	Average	3582	37	1.1	35	39	3%
C10	Number of work days per week	Average	3577	5	0.1	5	5	2%
FWRDAYS	Number of farm work days the previous year	Average	3581	225	6.0	213	236	3%

**Appendix B: Index of Percentages and Means for Key Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Variable Description</b>	<b>Variable Level(s)</b>	<b>Number of Observations</b>	<b>Estimate (Percentage or Mean)</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>95% Lower Confidence Limit</b>	<b>95% Upper Confidence Limit</b>	<b>Relative Standard Error</b>
NUMYRSFW (by NEFWWKR)	Number of years since first did farm work (by new farmworker: less than 1 year, 1 year, more than 1 year)	Average (among one or more years of farm work)	3486	19	0.5	18	19	2%
NUMYRSFW (by NEFWWKR)	Number of years since first did farm work (by new farmworker: less than 1 year, 1 year, more than 1 year)	1 year (among one or more years of farm work)	134	5%	0.6%	3%	6%	12%
NUMYRSFW (by NEFWWKR)	Number of years since first did farm work (by new farmworker: less than 1 year, 1 year, more than 1 year)	2–4 years (among one or more years of farm work)	277	9%	0.7%	8%	11%	8%
NUMYRSFW (by NEFWWKR)	Number of years since first did farm work (by new farmworker: less than 1 year, 1 year, more than 1 year)	5–10 years (among one or more years of farm work)	605	18%	1.7%	14%	21%	10%
NUMYRSFW (by NEFWWKR)	Number of years since first did farm work (by new farmworker: less than 1 year, 1 year, more than 1 year)	11–20 years (among one or more years of farm work)	1,034	29%	2.3%	24%	33%	8%
NUMYRSFW (by NEFWWKR)	Number of years since first did farm work (by new farmworker: less than 1 year, 1 year, more than 1 year)	21–30 years (among one or more years of farm work)	690	20%	1.4%	18%	23%	7%
NUMYRSFW (by NEFWWKR)	Number of years since first did farm work (by new farmworker: less than 1 year, 1 year, more than 1 year)	31 or more years (among one or more years of farm work)	746	20%	1.6%	17%	23%	8%



**Appendix B: Index of Percentages and Means for Key Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Variable Description</b>	<b>Variable Level(s)</b>	<b>Number of Observations</b>	<b>Estimate (Percentage or Mean)</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>95% Lower Confidence Limit</b>	<b>95% Upper Confidence Limit</b>	<b>Relative Standard Error</b>
B12	Number of years of non-crop work in the US	None	2,096	62%	1.9%	58%	65%	3%
B12	Number of years of non-crop work in the US	1 year	342	8%	0.7%	7%	9%	8%
B12	Number of years of non-crop work in the US	2–10 years	777	25%	1.6%	22%	28%	6%
B12	Number of years of non-crop work in the US	11 or more years	195	6%	0.7%	4%	7%	13%
B12	Number of years of non-crop work in the US	Average, among those with at least 1 year on non-crop work in the US	1,314	6	0.3	6	7	5%
B13	Last time parents did hired farm work in the US	Never	1,730	51%	1.8%	47%	54%	3%
B13	Last time parents did hired farm work in the US	Now/within the last year	401	13%	1.1%	10%	15%	9%
B13	Last time parents did hired farm work in the US	1–5 years ago	136	3%	0.5%	2%	4%	15%
B13	Last time parents did hired farm work in the US	6–10 years ago	178	4%	0.6%	3%	6%	13%
B13	Last time parents did hired farm work in the US	11 or more years ago	1,090	28%	1.3%	26%	31%	4%
B13	Last time parents did hired farm work in the US	Don't know	19	1% <sup>a</sup>	0.2%	0%	1%	35%
E02	How long expect to continue doing farm work	Less than one year	78	3%	0.6%	2%	4%	19%
E02	How long expect to continue doing farm work	1–3 years	329	9%	1.1%	7%	11%	12%
E02	How long expect to continue doing farm work	4–5 years	115	3%	0.4%	2%	4%	14%
E02	How long expect to continue doing farm work	Over 5 years	83	2%	0.3%	1%	2%	18%
E02	How long expect to continue doing farm work	Over 5 years/as long as I am able	2,887	81%	1.6%	77%	84%	2%
E02	How long expect to continue doing farm work	Other	69	2%	0.7%	1%	4%	27%

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.

Chapter 7

Variable	Variable Description	Variable Level(s)	Number of Observations	Estimate (Percentage or Mean)	Standard Error	95% Lower Confidence Limit	95% Upper Confidence Limit	Relative Standard Error
NWEEKS	Number of weeks living in the US but not working the previous year	Average	3,582	9	1.0	7	11	11%
ABWEEKS	Number of weeks abroad the previous year	Average	3,582	2	0.6	1	4	23%
HadNFJob	Had at least one non-crop job in the previous year	Yes	450	17%	1.8%	13%	21%	11%
NFWEEKS	Number of weeks of non-crop work the previous year	Average, among those with NFWEEKS>0	450	23	1.6	20	27	7%
NUMNFJOBS	Number of non-crop jobs the previous year	Average, among those with NFWEEKS>0	450	1	0.05	1	2	3%
HasNFLeave (by NFWEEKS)	Left at least one non-crop employer in the previous year (by number of weeks of non-crop work the previous year)	Left at least one non-crop employer in the previous year (among NFWEEKS>0)	224	52%	5.2%	42%	62%	10%
NFleaves (by HasNFLeave)	Type of leave from non-crop work (by left at least one non-crop employer in the previous year)	All leaves from non-crop work were involuntary (among left at least one non-crop employer in the previous year)	76	32%	4.6%	23%	41%	14%
NFleaves (by HasNFLeave)	Type of leave from non-crop work (by left at least one non-crop employer in the previous year)	All leaves from non-crop work were voluntary (among left at least one non-crop employer in the previous year)	139	63%	4.7%	54%	73%	7%
NFleaves (by HasNFLeave)	Type of leave from non-crop work (by left at least one non-crop employer in the previous year)	Both voluntary and involuntary leaves from non-crop work (among left at least one non-crop employer in the previous year)	9	4% <sup>a</sup>	1.7%	1%	8%	41%
HadNW	Had at least one period of not working in previous year	Yes	2,256	69%	2.2%	64%	73%	3%

**Appendix B: Index of Percentages and Means for Key Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Variable Description</b>	<b>Variable Level(s)</b>	<b>Number of Observations</b>	<b>Estimate (Percentage or Mean)</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>95% Lower Confidence Limit</b>	<b>95% Upper Confidence Limit</b>	<b>Relative Standard Error</b>
WeeksNotWorking	Number of weeks not working in previous year	Average, among those who had at least one period of not working in previous year	2,256	16	1.1	14	19	6%
RecvdUI	Received unemployment during at least one period of not working	Yes (among those who had at least one period of not working in previous year)	423	24%	3.6%	17%	31%	15%

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.

Chapter 8

Variable	Variable Description	Variable Level(s)	Number of Observations	Estimate (Percentage or Mean)	Standard Error	95% Lower Confidence Limit	95% Upper Confidence Limit	Relative Standard Error
G01	Total personal income the previous year	Average	3,373	\$20,000-\$24,999	0.2	10	11	2%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	Median	3,373	\$20,000-\$24,999	0.2	10	11	2%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	Did not work at all in the previous year	88	5%	1%	3%	7%	19%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	\$500-\$999	9	1% <sup>a</sup>	<1%	<1%	1%	41%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	\$1,000-\$2,499	20	1% <sup>a</sup>	<1%	<1%	2%	39%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	\$2,500-\$4,999	42	2%	<1%	1%	2%	21%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	\$5,000-\$7,499	54	2%	<1%	1%	3%	21%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	\$7,500-\$9,999	73	4%	1%	2%	6%	27%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	\$10,000-\$12,499	117	4%	1%	2%	5%	19%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	\$12,500-\$14,999	156	4%	1%	3%	6%	15%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	\$15,000-\$17,499	272	7%	1%	5%	9%	14%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	\$17,500-\$19,999	333	9%	1%	7%	11%	10%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	\$20,000-\$24,999	809	20%	1%	18%	23%	7%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	\$25,000-\$29,999	634	17%	2%	14%	20%	10%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	\$30,000-\$34,999	394	9%	1%	8%	10%	8%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	\$35,000-\$39,999	219	6%	1%	4%	7%	13%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	Over \$40,000	241	6%	1%	4%	7%	14%
G01	Total personal income the previous year	Don't know	91	2%	<1%	1%	3%	20%

**Appendix B: Index of Percentages and Means for Key Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Variable Description</b>	<b>Variable Level(s)</b>	<b>Number of Observations</b>	<b>Estimate (Percentage or Mean)</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>95% Lower Confidence Limit</b>	<b>95% Upper Confidence Limit</b>	<b>Relative Standard Error</b>
G01	Total personal income the previous year	Refuse	13	<1% <sup>a</sup>	<1%	<1%	1%	45%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	Average	3,368	\$25,000-\$29,999	0.2	12	12	1%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	Median	3,368	12	0.2	12	12	1%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	Did not work at all in the previous year	61	4%	1%	2%	6%	28%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	\$1,000-\$2,499	15	1%	0%	0%	1%	32%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	\$2,500-\$4,999	29	1%	0%	1%	2%	24%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	\$5,000-\$7,499	30	1%	0%	1%	2%	28%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	\$7,500-\$9,999	31	2%	1%	0%	4%	41%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	\$10,000-\$12,499	70	2%	0%	1%	3%	19%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	\$12,500-\$14,999	76	2%	0%	1%	3%	19%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	\$15,000-\$17,499	170	4%	1%	3%	5%	15%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	\$17,500-\$19,999	231	5%	1%	4%	6%	10%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	\$20,000-\$24,999	591	15%	1%	12%	17%	8%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	\$25,000-\$29,999	539	16%	1%	13%	19%	8%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	\$30,000-\$34,999	417	11%	1%	9%	13%	9%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	\$35,000-\$39,999	336	8%	1%	7%	9%	7%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	Over \$40,000	833	24%	2%	20%	28%	9%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	Refuse	15	1%	0%	0%	1%	44%
G03	Family's total income the previous year	Don't know	119	3%	0%	2%	4%	17%

**Appendix B: Index of Percentages and Means for Key Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Variable Description</b>	<b>Variable Level(s)</b>	<b>Number of Observations</b>	<b>Estimate (Percentage or Mean)</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>95% Lower Confidence Limit</b>	<b>95% Upper Confidence Limit</b>	<b>Relative Standard Error</b>
FAMPOV	Family income below the poverty level	Below poverty level	685	23%	2.2%	19%	28%	9%
ASSETUS	Assets in US	Any U.S. asset	2,743	76%	2.0%	72%	79%	3%
G06a	Type of US asset	Plot of land	29	<1% <sup>a</sup>	0.3%	<1%	1%	41%
G06d	Type of US asset	Car or truck	2,582	70%	1.8%	67%	74%	3%
G06h	Type of US asset	A type of housing, such as a house, mobile home, condominium, or apartment	633	35%	3.2%	29%	41%	9%

**Appendix B: Index of Percentages and Means for Key Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Variable Description</b>	<b>Variable Level(s)</b>	<b>Number of Observations</b>	<b>Estimate (Percentage or Mean)</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>95% Lower Confidence Limit</b>	<b>95% Upper Confidence Limit</b>	<b>Relative Standard Error</b>
G04c	Type of contribution-based program household member utilized in the last 2 years	Disability insurance	58	2%	0.3%	<1%	2%	23%
G04d	Type of contribution-based program household member utilized in the last 2 years	Unemployment Insurance	448	17%	2.8%	11%	22%	17%
G04e	Type of contribution-based program household member utilized in the last 2 years	Social Security	72	3%	0.8%	0%	4%	27%
G04b	Type of need-based program household member utilized in the last 2 years	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	509	16%	1.6%	13%	19%	10%
G04i	Type of need-based program household member utilized in the last 2 years	Public health clinics	476	16%	2.6%	11%	21%	16%
G04j	Type of need-based program household member utilized in the last 2 years	Medicaid	1,833	52%	2.3%	47%	57%	4%
G04k	Type of need-based program household member utilized in the last 2 years	WIC	616	16%	1.0%	14%	18%	7%
G04r	Type of need-based program household member utilized in the last 2 years	Welfare (general assistance) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	29	3%	0.9%	1%	5%	29%

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.

Chapter 9

Variable	Variable Description	Variable Level(s)	Number of Observations	Estimate (Percentage or Mean)	Standard Error	95% Lower Confidence Limit	95% Upper Confidence Limit	Relative Standard Error
A21a	Farmworker has health insurance	Yes	1,944	58%	1.9%	54%	61%	3%
A23a1	Who pays for farmworker's health insurance	Farmworker	149	6%	1.2%	4%	8%	20%
A23a2	Who pays for farmworker's health insurance	Farmworker's spouse	17	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	30%
A23a3	Who pays for farmworker's health insurance	Farmworker's employer	695	31%	3.4%	24%	38%	11%
A23a4	Who pays for farmworker's health insurance	Farmworker's spouse's employer	88	4%	<1%	2%	6%	24%
A23a5	Who pays for farmworker's health insurance	Government	884	54%	3.7%	46%	61%	7%
A23a6	Who pays for farmworker's health insurance	Other	130	6%	<1%	4%	8%	15%
A23a7	Who pays for farmworker's health insurance	Farmworker's parents'/family's plan	36	2%	<1%	<1%	3%	28%
A21b	Spouse has health insurance	Yes	2,512	67%	1.8%	63%	70%	3%
A23b1	Who pays for spouse's insurance	Farmworker	77	6%	1.5%	3%	9%	28%
A23b2	Who pays for spouse's insurance	Farmworker's spouse	36	1%	<1%	<1%	2%	23%
A23b3	Who pays for spouse's insurance	Farmworker's employer	202	12%	1.8%	8%	15%	16%
A23b4	Who pays for spouse's insurance	Farmworker's spouse's employer	252	17%	2.5%	12%	22%	15%
A23b5	Who pays for spouse's insurance	Government	873	61%	3.0%	55%	67%	5%
A23b6	Who pays for spouse's insurance	Other	96	5%	<1%	3%	7%	15%
A21c2	Children have health insurance	Yes, all have it	1,605	91%	2.2%	87%	96%	2%
A21c2	Children have health insurance	Yes, only some have it	50	3%	0.9%	1%	5%	28%



**Appendix B: Index of Percentages and Means for Key Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Variable Description</b>	<b>Variable Level(s)</b>	<b>Number of Observations</b>	<b>Estimate (Percentage or Mean)</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>95% Lower Confidence Limit</b>	<b>95% Upper Confidence Limit</b>	<b>Relative Standard Error</b>
newA23c	Who pays for children's insurance	Farmworker or spouse	28	2% <sup>a</sup>	1.0%	1%	4%	39%
newA23c	Who pays for children's insurance	Farmworker's or spouse's employer	123	8%	1.7%	5%	12%	20%
newA23c	Who pays for children's insurance	Government	1,465	88%	2.1%	84%	92%	2%
newA23c	Who pays for children's insurance	Other	29	1% <sup>a</sup>	0.5%	<1%	2%	33%
NQ01x	Utilized health care service in last 2 years	Yes	1,671	65%	2.5%	60%	70%	4%
NQ03bx	Type of health care provider at last visit	Community health center	584	38%	2.6%	33%	43%	7%
NQ03bx	Type of health care provider at last visit	Private doctor's office/private clinic	687	38%	2.0%	34%	42%	5%
NQ03bx	Type of health care provider at last visit	Healer/curandero, ER, chiropractor/naturopath, other	47	2%	0.5%	1%	3%	21%
NQ03bx	Type of health care provider at last visit	Hospital	117	6%	0.7%	5%	8%	11%
NQ03bx	Type of health care provider at last visit	Migrant health clinic	10	0% <sup>a</sup>	0.1%	0%	1%	36%
NQ03bx	Type of health care provider at last visit	Dentist	224	15%	2.0%	11%	19%	13%
NQ05x	Who paid majority of cost of last health care visit	Paid the bill out of own pocket	524	25%	1.5%	22%	28%	6%
NQ05x	Who paid majority of cost of last health care visit	Medicaid/Medicare	383	32%	3.0%	26%	38%	10%
NQ05x	Who paid majority of cost of last health care visit	Public clinic/did not charge	157	10%	1.1%	7%	12%	12%
NQ05x	Who paid majority of cost of last health care visit	Employer provided health plan	345	18%	2.6%	13%	23%	14%
NQ05x	Who paid majority of cost of last health care visit	Self or family bought individual health plan	122	8%	1.7%	5%	12%	20%
NQ05x	Who paid majority of cost of last health care visit	Other	92	4%	0.8%	3%	6%	18%
NQ05x	Who paid majority of cost of last health care visit	Billed but did not pay, workers' compensation, or combination of sources	51	3%	0.5%	2%	4%	18%

**Appendix B: Index of Percentages and Means for Key Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Variable Description</b>	<b>Variable Level(s)</b>	<b>Number of Observations</b>	<b>Estimate (Percentage or Mean)</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>95% Lower Confidence Limit</b>	<b>95% Upper Confidence Limit</b>	<b>Relative Standard Error</b>
NQ10ax	Main difficulties faced when needing to access health care in the US	No transportation, too far away	13	1% <sup>a</sup>	<1%	<1%	2%	40%
NQ10bx	Main difficulties faced when needing to access health care in the US	Don't know where services are available	7	b	b	b	b	57%
NQ10cx	Main difficulties faced when needing to access health care in the US	Health center not open when needed	2	b	b	b	b	85%
NQ10dx	Main difficulties faced when needing to access health care in the US	They don't provide the services I need	3	b	b	b	b	65%
NQ10ex	Main difficulties faced when needing to access health care in the US	They don't speak my language	23	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	30%
NQ10fx	Main difficulties faced when needing to access health care in the US	They don't treat me with respect	9	<1% <sup>a</sup>	<1%	<1%	<1%	38%
NQ10gx	Main difficulties faced when needing to access health care in the US	They don't understand my problems	11	<1% <sup>a</sup>	<1%	<1%	2%	36%
NQ10hx	Main difficulties faced when needing to access health care in the US	I'll lose my job	4	<1% <sup>a</sup>	<1%	<1%	<1%	41%
NQ10ix	Main difficulties faced when needing to access health care in the US	Too expensive/no insurance	728	26%	1.9%	22%	30%	7%
MQ10jx	Main difficulties faced when needing to access health care in the US	Other	27	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	30%
NQ10lx	Main difficulties faced when needing to access health care in the US	I'm undocumented/no papers (that's why they don't treat me well)	13	b	b	b	b	58%
NQ10mx	Main difficulties faced when needing to access health care in the US	I don't know, I've never needed it	374	14%	1.9%	10%	18%	13%

<sup>a</sup> Estimate should be interpreted with caution because it has an RSE of 31 percent to 50 percent.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate is suppressed because the number of responses is less than 4 or the relative standard error for the estimate is greater than 50 percent.