

Health Services Provided to Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in Northern Colorado in 2000

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Objectives

To determine the prevalence of environmental and occupational health diseases among migrant and seasonal farmworkers in northern Colorado. In addition, demographic data, chronic diseases as well as ICD 9 codes would be evaluated.

Methods

A randomized sample of clinic visits were evaluated between September 1999 and October 2000. The sample consisted of migrant or seasonal farmworkers above the age of 17 who had been evaluated in a Community and Migrant Health Center in northern Colorado. Each chart was evaluated for either an occupational health related disease or the possibility of a job-related injury or exposure. In addition, all ICD 9 codes were evaluated and chronic disease states were noted for both the randomized sample and the total number of patients seen at the health center. The accuracy of the ICD 9 code was also evaluated.

Results

Of the potential 4,169 patient visits at the health center there was 1,001 patients that were eligible for the study. All of the 1,001 patients were categorized by ICD 9 code. The following is a list of major ICD 9 categories according to the International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision 2000 and the percentages seen in each category after the screening diagnosis were taken out:

<u>Major Category</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Infectious and Parasitic	15.3%
Neoplasm's	0.7%
Endocrine, Nutritional, Metabolic, Immunity	7.0%
Blood and Blood Forming Organ	0.5%
Mental Disorder	5.0%

Resource ID#: 4261

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Nervous System and Sense Organs	13.4%
Circulatory	21.5%
Digestive System	11.9%
Abnormal Pregnancy	1.8%
Skin or Structure	10.9%
Congenital Anomaly	8.4%
Injury and Poisoning	3.6%
Total	100%

In the randomized sample of 200, 97(48.5%) were female and 103(51.5%) were male, where as the average age of all patients was 39.8 years. 66(33%) were migrant farmworkers and 124(67%) were seasonal farmworkers. The accuracy of the ICD 9 codes on the 200 randomized samples was 76.5%. 47 of the total charts had errors on coding. Patients under the age of 18 and those with a screening diagnosis such as well child examination or physical examination were taken out. 200 of the remaining 593 subjects were randomly chosen by a computer generated report. Of these 200 charts chosen 22 (11%) had a diagnosis of a job related injury or illness. Each one of the 22 charts had documentation of the event occurring at the work site. An additional 31 (15.5%) had a diagnosis that was a possible job-related injury or illness. The following list consists of the chronic disease that were noted in past or present histories. It is important to note here that some patients had more than one chronic disease.

<u>Chronic Disease</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Hypertension	14%
Diabetes	12%
Stress/Anxiety/Depression	13%
Arthritis	6%
Hyperlipidemia	4.5%

Asthma	2%
Positive TB Screen (ppd)	3%
Abnormal Pap	1.5%
Chronic Lower Back Pain	3.5%
Violence	2.5%
Hypothyroid	2%
Chronic Urinary Tract Infections	1%
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	1%

Conclusion

There was a high prevalence of hypertension, diabetes and mental health conditions in this population of migrant and seasonal farmworkers. In addition, the prevalence of work related illness or injury was a significant number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers as were the chronic diseases. It was also significant that the average age was higher than in past studies as was the increased percentage of seasonal farmworkers over the percentage of migrant farmworkers. An additional important finding in this study, is the positive pap rate seemed to be very low. However, it is important to note that the screening diagnosis were eliminated from the study since they are counted under a screening diagnosis. Past studies have shown that the percentage of abnormal pap exams is near 30% .