



# THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



Coachella Valley  
Farm Worker Survey: Final Report  
January 2007

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The County of Riverside Coachella Valley Farm Worker Survey Project was the product of a collaborative effort between the County of Riverside and a wide variety of community stakeholders in the Coachella Valley including members of the Eastern Coachella Valley Social Change Collaborative. The planning, implementation, and completion of this Survey Project has inspired a distinctive relationship between these groups that creates new possibilities for responding to the needs of farm workers and their families living and working in the region.

The Coachella Valley Farm Worker Survey Project was commissioned by the Office of County Supervisor Roy Wilson, District 4. Specific recognition goes to Elizabeth Romero of Supervisor Wilson's office, whose personal efforts and attention made the completion of this project possible. Specific recognition also goes to the Regional Access Project Foundation, Inc. for providing additional funding to help complete the project.

This report was prepared by the Institute for Urban Research and Development (Consultant) on behalf of the County of Riverside Department of Public Social Services. It contains a summary of survey information collected from farm workers by over two dozen community-based organizations and service agencies in the Coachella Valley region over a three-month period (May through July) in 2006.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2005, the Agricultural Industry generated over \$4 billion dollars in financial impact on the Riverside County economy including over \$1.7 billion in the Coachella Valley region. Critical to this significant economic impact on the local economy is a thriving and productive work force that tends the agricultural crops and livestock of the region. In order to gain a better understanding of the living conditions and daily service needs of the farm worker population in the eastern Coachella Valley, the office of County Supervisor Roy Wilson and the County of Riverside Department of Public Social Services commissioned the Coachella Valley Farm Worker Survey Project.

This report provides a profile of farm workers living and working in the Coachella Valley year-round and seasonally that is based upon a comprehensive survey in Spanish that contained more than 100 questions prepared by local community stakeholders. The survey was administered to 525 year-round and seasonal farm workers. The responses to the questions were analyzed and serve as the basis of the findings within this report. These findings relate to many aspects of the lives of farm workers and their families including housing, employment, income, health status, education, residency, social services, and transportation.

The findings presented in this section are meant to create awareness of the needs and interests of farm workers and their family members. These findings are highlighted below under various categories or aspects of the lives of farm workers in order to draw attention to their importance.

## FARM WORKERS WHO LIVE IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY YEAR-ROUND

The first set of findings concern farm workers who stated that they live in the Coachella Valley year-round. Seventy-two percent (72%) of survey respondents stated that they lived in the valley year-round, whereas 28% lived in the Coachella Valley seasonally.

### Social Services

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**FINDING:** *Farm workers identified medical services as the first service that would be most helpful for them and their families.*

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When asked “What services would be most helpful to you and your family while living in the Coachella Valley” the majority of survey respondents stated medical services. The need for medical services is underlined by the fact that 87% of survey respondents stated that they do not have private medical/health insurance. The need may also be evident because nearly half (44%) stated that they “never receive health care services during a typical year” or only receive health care services “for emergencies.”



In spite of the lack of health insurance, medical services are clearly a priority for farm workers. This is obvious because 82% of their children had seen a doctor in the last 12 months and that more children were receiving Medi-Cal than any other public assistance benefit. Also, all of the women who were pregnant were receiving prenatal care.

## Transportation

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**FINDING:** *Farm workers identified transportation as the second service that would be most helpful for them and their families.*

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When asked “What services would be most helpful to you and your family while living in the Coachella Valley” a significant number of survey respondents stated transportation. Survey data revealed the need for access to transportation to work. Almost half (42%) of survey respondents stated that they “miss work due to lack of transportation.” In addition, 40% of survey respondents noted that they “have trouble getting to other locations and places” due to lack of transportation.

## Education

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**FINDING:** *71% of farm workers stated that they could not communicate in English and nearly two-thirds (65%) of them were interested in learning English.*

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One hundred percent (100%) of the farm workers surveyed were Latino. When asked what “is the primary language/dialect spoken in your household” 95% stated Spanish; 3% stated English; and 2% stated other. Of the respondents who stated that Spanish was their primary language, 71% stated that they could not communicate in English. Of these persons, nearly two-thirds (65%) were interested in learning English.

## Housing

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**FINDING:** *88% of farm workers who live year-round in the Coachella Valley live in conventional housing situations including apartments, houses and mobile homes.*

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The vast majority (72%) of farm workers surveyed identified that they live year-round in the Coachella Valley. An overwhelming majority (88%) of farm workers that live year-round in the Coachella Valley live in conventional housing situations including apartments, houses and mobile homes. Over two-thirds (70%) identified that they were renters and that they live with family members (69%). Only 2% identified that they lived in situations not meant for human habitation such as outdoors, cars, or trailers on private property.

About two-thirds (64%) of survey respondents were not aware of government funded housing for seasonal farm workers and an overwhelming majority (90%) had never applied for any kind of government funded housing programs. Only 14% identified that they had ever lived in any government funded housing for migrant/seasonal farm workers and only 7% identified that they were currently receiving government housing assistance.

## Employment

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**FINDING: 24% of farm workers reported that they worked 12 months out of the year doing farm labor in the Coachella Valley.**

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Over two-thirds of survey respondents (71.5%) reported that they work less than 12 months out of the year doing farm labor. Less than one in four (24%) respondents reported that they work 12 months out of the year doing farm labor in the Coachella Valley. Three out of five (60%) farm workers who live year-round in the Coachella Valley work less than twelve months out of the year doing farm labor.

The vast majority (83%) of farm workers reported that neither they nor their spouse do any work other than farm labor to earn money during the year. Of those that did do other work, almost half (45%) work either in construction or gardening. When asked if they had “attempted to apply for any government benefits assistance”, close to half (44%) of the respondents said “yes”, but only one out of four (25%) reported having received unemployment benefits and only 1% reported that they had received benefits through the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI).

Other notable findings related to household employment:

- Over one-third (37%) of those working as farm laborers indicated that their spouse or partner was also a farm worker;
- More than one-five (22%) identified that they had adult family members living with them, other than their spouse, who work and contribute to the household income; almost half (47%) of these family members work as farm laborers.

## Income

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**FINDING: 78% of farm workers stated that their annual household income was less than \$15,000.**

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A large majority (78%) of farm workers had an annual household income of less than \$15,000. When asked “How much do you earn doing farm labor per hour,” 58% stated between \$6.75 and \$7.00 per hour. For many their annual income would be higher if they were paid for missing work because of illness and if they received overtime pay. Supporting data is as follows:

- 90% of survey respondents stated that they do not get paid if they miss a day due to illness;
- 50% of survey respondents stated that they do not get paid an overtime rate if they work more than 8 hours in a day or 40 hours in a week.

## FARM WORKERS WHO LIVE IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY SEASONALLY

The second set of findings concern farm workers who stated that they live in the Coachella Valley seasonally.

There were notable differences between farm workers who lived in the Coachella Valley year-round and those who lived in the valley seasonally. Notable differences included:

- 76% of seasonal farm workers were men and 24% were women, whereas 56% of year-round farm workers were men and 44% were women;
- 49% of seasonal farm workers were 40 years of age or older, whereas one-third (33%) of year-round farm workers were 40 years of age or older;
- 59% of seasonal farm workers stated that they have been able to obtain health care services for their children, whereas 82% of year-round farm workers were able to obtain health care services for their children;
- 39% of seasonal farm workers stated that they do not know what health problems they have, whereas 21% of year-round farm workers stated that they do not know what health problems they have;
- 41% of seasonal farm workers stated that they were currently drinking alcohol, whereas 19% of year-round farm workers stated that they were currently drinking alcohol;
- 50% of seasonal farm workers made between \$201 and \$300 per week, whereas 27% of year-round farm workers made between \$201 and \$300 per week;
- 97% of seasonal farm workers had an annual household income of less than \$15,000, whereas 78% of year-round farm workers had an annual household income of less than \$15,000.

## Social Services

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**FINDING:** *Seasonal farm workers identified medical services as the first service that would be most helpful for them and their families.*

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When asked “What services would be most helpful to you and your family while living in the Coachella Valley” the majority of survey respondents stated medical services. The need for medical services is underlined by the fact that 92% of survey respondents stated that they do not have private medical/health insurance. The need may also be evident because 52% stated that they “never receive health care services during a typical year” or only receive health care services “for emergencies.”



## Transportation

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**FINDING:** *Seasonal farm workers identified transportation as the second service that would be most helpful for them and their families.*

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When asked “What services would be most helpful to you and your family while living in the Coachella Valley” a significant number of survey respondents stated transportation. Survey data revealed the need for access to transportation to work. Almost half (48%) of survey respondents stated that they “miss work due to lack of transportation.” In addition, 42% of survey respondents noted that they “have trouble getting to other locations and places” due to lack of transportation.

## Education

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**FINDING:** *80% of seasonal farm workers stated that they could not communicate in English and nearly two-thirds (63%) of them were interested in learning English.*

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One hundred percent (100%) of the farm workers surveyed were Latino. When asked what “is the primary language/dialect spoken in your household” 98% stated Spanish; 1% stated English; and 1% stated other. Of the respondents who stated that Spanish was their primary language, 80% stated that they could not communicate in English. Of these persons, nearly two-thirds (63%) were interested in learning English.

## Housing

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**FINDING:** *30% of seasonal farm workers live in situations not meant for human habitation such as outdoors or other locations not meant for sleeping, cars/truck/vans/trailers on streets or in parking lots, trailers or RVs on private residential property or in converted garages.*

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More than one out of four (28%) of the farm workers surveyed identified that they live and work seasonally in the Coachella Valley. Almost one-third (30%) live while in the Coachella Valley in situations not meant for human habitation such as outdoors or other locations not meant for sleeping, cars/truck/vans/trailers on streets or in parking lots, trailers or RVs on private residential property or in converted garages. More than half of the seasonal farm workers identified that they did not have a telephone (55%) or heat or air (50%). Over one-third did not have access to hot water (35%) or an oven/stove (33%). More than one out of four (27%) did not have access to a refrigerator, or shower facilities (26%).



Three out of four (75%) survey respondents were not aware of government funded housing for migrant/seasonal farm workers and an overwhelming majority (90%) had never applied for any kind of government funded housing programs. Only 13% identified that they had ever lived in any government funded housing for migrant/seasonal farm workers and only 6% identified that they were currently receiving government housing assistance.

## Employment

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**FINDING:** *45% of seasonal farm workers reported that they work six (6) days a week doing farm labor in the Coachella Valley.*

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Nearly half (45%) of seasonal farm workers stated that they work six (6) days a week. Conversely, 45% stated five (5) days a week. Nearly one in five (22%) of seasonal farm workers also stated that they work more than eight (8) hours a day. They worked between 10 and 12 hours a day.

## Income

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**FINDING:** *97% of seasonal farm workers stated that their annual household income was less than \$15,000.*

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A large majority (97%) of seasonal farm workers had an annual household income of less than \$15,000. When asked “How much do you earn doing farm labor per hour,” 61% stated between \$6.75 and \$7.00 per hour. For many their annual income would be higher if they were paid for missing work because of illness and if they received overtime pay. Supporting data is as follows:

- 90% of survey respondents stated that they do not get paid if they miss a day due to illness;
- 62% of survey respondents stated that they do not get paid an overtime rate if they work more than 8 hours in a day or 40 hours in a week.

# INTRODUCTION

The Agricultural Industry is a central component of the economic engine that drives Riverside County. According to the County of Riverside Office of the Agricultural Commissioner 2005 Agricultural Production Report, the total gross crop production valuation for 2005 was \$1,168,671,100. The report further identifies that “every dollar received by farmers . . . has a financial impact of three and a half times that amount” into the local economy representing more than \$4,090,348,850 in Riverside County in 2005.

Over half of the gross crop production in Riverside County in 2005 (\$503,523,700) was generated in the Coachella Valley region on the eastern end of the County. 2005 was the first year the region has exceeded \$500 million in gross crop production which represents a financial impact of more than \$1,762,332,950 into the regional economy.

Critical to the success of the agricultural industry and thus the Riverside County economy is a thriving and productive work force that tends the crops and livestock of the industry. Yet, many of the thousands of men and women that make up this work force struggle in their day-to-day subsistence due in no small part to low-wages and the seasonal nature of the agriculture industry. Thus, the purpose of this report is to provide a profile of farm workers<sup>1</sup> and their families who live and work in the Coachella Valley.

## COACHELLA VALLEY

The Coachella Valley is largely an irrigated agricultural and recreational desert valley that extends for approximately 45 miles across the eastern part of Riverside County. Bounded on the west by the San Jacinto Mountains and the Santa Rosa Mountains and on the north and east by the Little San Bernardino Mountains, the valley is approximately 15 miles wide along most of its length. These mountains peak at around 11,000 feet, and tend to average about three to five thousand feet.

The Coachella Valley is home to nearly 100,000 acres of diversified farmland. A frost-free climate with mild seasons and dry summers allows for year-round crops which makes the valley’s farmlands some of the most productive in the United States. When farming within Midwestern United States comes to a halt during the winter, the valley continues to supply the nation with plentiful fruits and vegetables. It is the primary date-growing region in the United States and supplies more than 90 percent of the nation’s crop. Other fruits and vegetables cultivated in the valley include artichokes, avocados, citrus fruits, corn, cotton, grain, peppers, and table grapes.

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<sup>1</sup>A farm worker was defined as “A person who performs manual and/or hand tool labor to plant, cultivate, harvest, pack and/or load field crops and other plant life. A person who attends to live farm, ranch or aquacultural animals including those produced for animal products.”



The town of Coachella is the primary shipping point for agricultural goods and is one (1) of nine (9) cities that make up the valley along with various unincorporated areas (see map on next page).

City or Area	Population (2000 Census)	Population (2005 estimate)
Cathedral City	42,647	50,632
Coachella	22,724	30,764
Desert Hot Springs	16,582	19,386
Indian Wells	3,816	4,781
Indio	49,116	66,118
La Quinta	23,694	36,145
Palm Desert	41,155	49,280
Palm Springs	42,807	45,731
Rancho Mirage	13,249	16,416
Unincorporated area	76,695	91,721
<b>Coachella Valley Total</b>	<b>332,485</b>	<b>410,974</b>

The Coachella Valley is one of the fastest-growing areas in the country. Its total population has increased by 500% over the past 25 years from 80,000 residents in 1980 to approximately 400,000 in 2005.

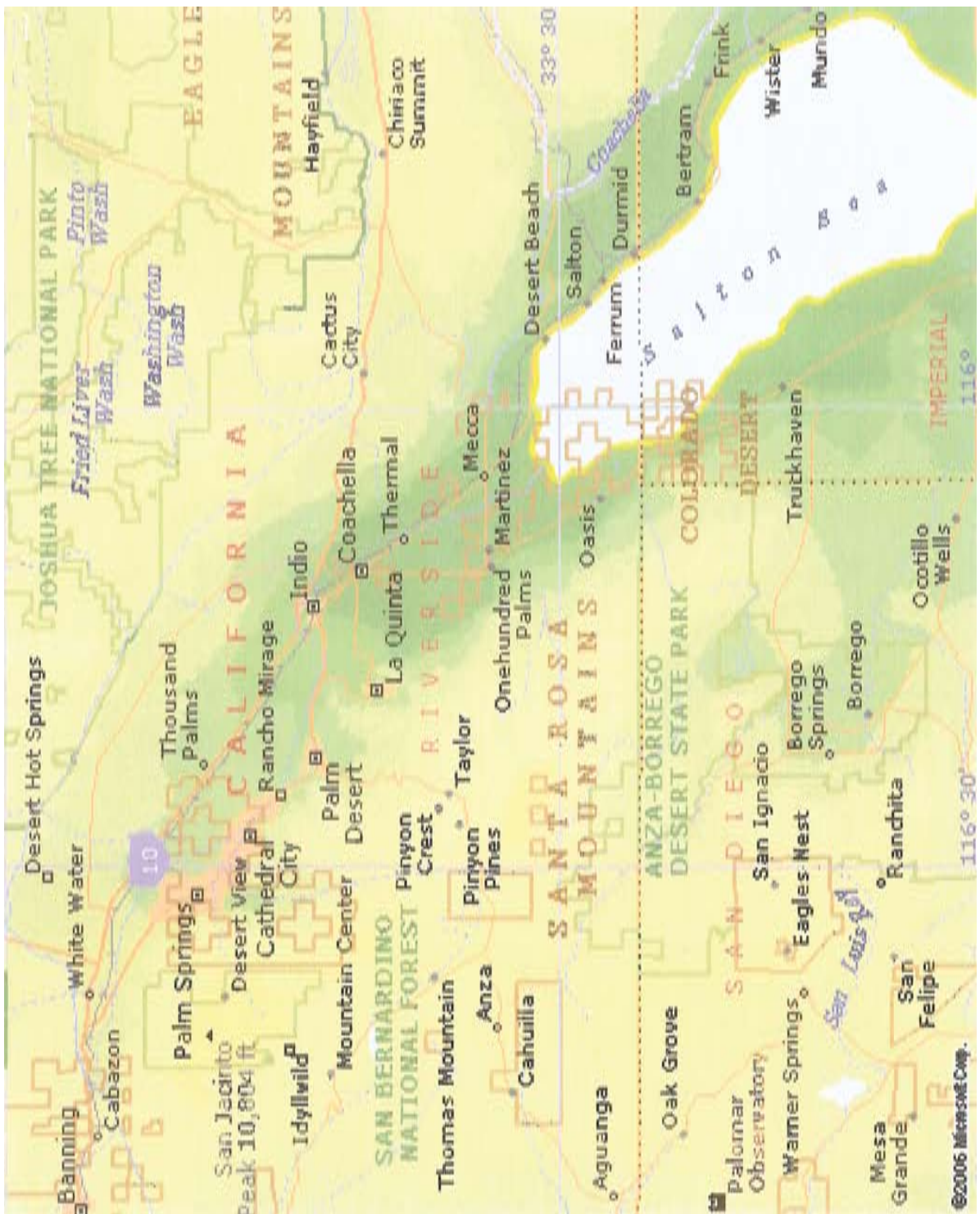
Year	Estimated Population
1980	80,000
1990	185,000
2000	330,000
2005	400,000

The Labor Market Information Division of the State of California Employment Development Department identified an average of 15,100 farm labor jobs in Riverside County in 2005. Approximately half of that average (7,550) can be attributed to the Coachella Valley region. Leaders of local social service and community-based organizations in the Coachella Valley estimate the number of individuals working in farm labor jobs in the region ranges from approximately 3,000 to 10,000 at any given time depending on the seasonal work trends of the local industry.

## 2006 FARM WORKER SURVEY PROJECT

In order to gain a better understanding of the living conditions and daily service needs of the farm worker population in the eastern Coachella Valley, the office of County Supervisor Roy Wilson and the County of Riverside Department of Public Social Services commissioned a comprehensive farm worker survey project. The Institute for Urban Research and Development, a nonprofit community-based research organization, was contracted by the County to work with staff and local service providers to organize and conduct the 2006 Coachella Valley Farm Worker Survey Project.





The primary purpose of the County of Riverside 2006 Coachella Valley Farm Worker Survey Project is to provide the people of the Coachella Valley and its wide variety of community stakeholders with a unique opportunity to understand the living conditions and service needs of its farm worker population and their families unlike ever before. The primary objectives of the 2006 Survey Project was to develop a comprehensive profile of the Coachella Valley farm labor work force and their families living and working in the region, including year-round and seasonal workers. The primary methodology employed for the Survey Project was to implement a street-based and service-based one-on-one interview process designed to identify specific demographic information and assess the housing, employment, and health conditions as well as the service needs of the farm labor population throughout the region.

The results of the 2006 Coachella Valley Farm Worker Survey Project provide Riverside County with a comprehensive body of information that will serve as the basis for developing strategies for public and private agencies to respond to specific needs of farm workers and their families. Comprehensive information can also serve to develop strategies for filling gaps in services in the regional system of care through public and private collaborations.

## HOW THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED

Over 25 public and private community organizations based in the Coachella Valley participated in a twelve-month process to develop and conduct the 2006 Farm Worker Survey Project. A core working group of community stakeholders, organized and coordinated by Supervisor Wilson's office met monthly to coordinate the planning and implementation of this project and to facilitate broad community participation throughout the process. Planning activities of the Working Group included decisions on the scope and activities of the project, input on the development of the survey instrument, identification of goals and objectives, relevant stakeholders, project timeframe, territory to be covered, and target locations for conducting surveys.

Some of the key decisions made by the Working Group included defining the territory covered by the project, defining who to include as participants in the survey, and defining a final set of questions to include in the survey instrument. The Working Group agreed to focus the efforts of the project on the eastern Coachella Valley defined as including Coachella, Mecca, Thermal, Oasis, Vista Santa Rosa, North Shore and Indio and excluding the Palo Verde and Chuckawalla Valleys. As for survey participants, the group agreed to include any individual employed as a farm laborer within the previous twelve months as well as spouses of individuals employed as farm laborers (whether they themselves are employed as a farm laborer or not.) The Group agreed to survey individuals who fit the definition of farm worker based on the State of California Labor Market Information Division Occupational definitions of farm workers and laborers which includes:

*“A person who performs manual and/or hand tool labor to plant, cultivate, harvest, pack and/or load field crops and other plant life. A person who attends to live farm, ranch or aquacultural animals including those produced for animal products.”*



The survey instrument was designed to collect a comprehensive range of demographic information on farm workers and their families as well as assess their service needs. The final survey instrument included over 100 questions focusing on a wide range of areas including: employment, income, housing, health care, transportation, familial status, residency, documentation, and social services. The survey was also designed to capture the seasonal and migratory nature of the local farm labor force. As a result, the survey provides a body of data that helps examine the living conditions, issues, and needs of the region's farm labor population and their families.

The Survey was conducted over a 12-week period from May through July of 2006 which is the height of the harvesting season. During this period, 525 one-on-one survey interviews were conducted with farm workers and their spouses representing a sampling of over 5% of the annual average farm labor work force in the region. There were three (3) primary methods of contact with farm workers who participated in the survey. They were: 1) interviews with farm workers or their spouses who were encountered at service-provider locations; 2) interviews with farm workers or their spouses who were encountered "on the streets" including parks, markets, encampments, community events, etc; and 3) interviews with farm workers or their spouses conducted in their residential locations. Individuals who agreed to participate in the survey interview were assured that their responses would be anonymous and confidential thus giving them the ability to be candid in their responses to the survey interview questions.

The comprehensive one-on-one survey instrument was administered to participants by local service providers and volunteers trained to conduct thorough and complete interviews with farm workers and their spouses that they encountered in a variety of venues. Volunteers who participated in conducting the 100+ survey questionnaire were oriented and trained in administering the survey instrument by staff of the Institute for Urban Research and Development. Utilizing trained interviewers to administer the survey, as opposed to conducting a self-administered survey instrument, increased the opportunity for collecting complete and accurate answers to the questions as well as provided an opportunity for receiving useful evaluation information from the interviewers.

Led by staff in County Supervisor Roy Wilson's office, over 25 public and private agencies and organizations from throughout the Coachella Valley participated in the 2006 Farm Worker Survey Project. Volunteers and staff from the following agencies and organizations participated in the planning, conducted survey interviews, and/or provided opportunities for interviews to be conducted on their sites for this project.

- Alzheimers Association
- Borrego Medical-Oasis Clinic
- Catholic Charities
- Center for Employment Training
- Coachella Valley Housing Coalition
- Clinicas De Salud del Pueblo
- Comite Latino
- Community Action Partnership

- Desert Alliance for Community Empowerment
- Eastern Coachella Valley Social Change Collaborative
- Hidden Harvest
- Mecca Family & Farm Workers Service Center
- Office of State Senator Ducheny
- Planned Parenthood Promotores Pro Salud
- Poder Popular
- Regional Access Project Foundation
- Riverside County Department of Public Health
- Riverside County Department of Public Social Services
- Riverside County Economic Development Agency
- Riverside County Latino Commission
- Riverside County Office of Education-Migrant Student Education Program
- Riverside County Workforce Development Center
- State of California Employment Development Department
- United Farm Workers

## **PROFILE OF FARM WORKERS**

A profile of farm workers living and working in the Coachella Valley has been developed based upon information gathered from the “County of Riverside 2006 Coachella Valley Farm Worker Survey.” Five-hundred twenty-five (525) Farm workers agreed to participate in interviews and were asked more than 100 questions<sup>2</sup> that were prepared by community stakeholders and categorized as follows:

1. Personal Characteristics
2. Geo-History
3. Residency
4. Language
5. Education
6. Familial Status
7. Children
8. Housing Situation
9. Food
10. Employment and Income
11. Transportation
12. Health Status
13. Experience with Violence
14. Social Services
15. U.S. Residency

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<sup>2</sup> Each participant was told that the survey would be completely anonymous and confidential.

# Section I: Farm Workers Who Live In The Coachella Valley Year-Round

Seventy-two percent (72%) of survey respondents lived in the Coachella Valley year-round. However, not all farm workers live in the Coachella Valley year-round. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of survey respondents stated that they lived in the valley seasonally. As a result, a separate section (Section II) on seasonal farm workers is contained in this report.

## 1. Personal Characteristics

The first category was “personal characteristics” which consisted of four (4) questions that focused on gender, ethnicity, year of birth, and age.

### a. Gender

The majority of farm workers were men although women made up a significant percent of workers. Of the farm workers surveyed, 56% were men and 44% were women.

### b. Ethnicity

One hundred percent (100%) of the farm workers surveyed were Latino.

### c. Year of Birth/Age

Half (50%) of the farm workers surveyed were between the ages of 25 and 39. Seventeen percent (17%) were between ages 18 - 29 and 15% between the ages of 40 - 49. The remaining respondents (18%) were 50 years of age or older—three percent (3%) were sixty years of age or older.

## 2. Geo-History

The second category was “geo-history” which consisted of two (2) primary questions—in what country and in what state were you born.

### a. Country Born

The majority (88%) of farm workers surveyed were born in Mexico while 12% were born elsewhere. Six percent (6%) were born in the United States; 3% in El Salvador, and 3% stated other.

### b. State Born

Of those born in Mexico, nearly two-thirds (65%) were born in the following four (4) states: Michoacan (28%); Guanajuato (15%); Jalisco (12%); and Sinaloa (10%).

### 3. Residency

The first question asked within this category asked respondents if they lived in the Coachella Valley “year-round” or “seasonally?” The breakdown is as follows:

- 72% stated that they lived in the Coachella Valley “year-round;”
- 28% stated that they lived in the Coachella Valley “seasonally.”

When asked “How many years have you lived in Coachella Valley” a range of answers were given which included:

- 33% stated four (4) to six (6) years;
- 32% stated more than 10 years;
- 21% stated one (1) to three (3) years;
- 14% stated seven (7) to 10 years.

The next question asked “In what city/community do you live today?” More than 90% of respondents stated that they lived in the following four (4) areas:

- 41% lived in Mecca;
- 20% lived in Thermal;
- 16% lived in Coachella;
- 15% lived in Indio.

When asked “How many years have you lived in the above city/community this season?” the majority (60%) stated “more than 10 years.” The range of answers included the following:

- 11% stated one (1) to three (3) years;
- 13% stated four (4) to six (6) years;
- 9% stated seven (7) to 10 years;
- 60% stated more than 10 years.

The next few questions within this category concerned “ties” to the community and the questions and related answers were as follows:

QUESTIONS.....	Yes	No
1. Do You Have Family Who Live In The City In Which You Live?	78%	22%
2. Besides Farm Work, Have You Ever Held Any Other Job In The Coachella Valley?	35%	65%
3. Have You Ever Attended School In The City In Which You Live Today?	32%	67%

Of those who said that they attended school in the city in which they live today

- 14% stated that they went to elementary school;
- 7% stated that they went to middle/jr. high;
- 4% stated that they went to high school;
- 2% stated that they went to college;
- 10% stated that they went to adult school.

When asked “Do you have a permanent/year-round residence outside of Coachella Valley, 17% stated “yes” and of these persons 56% stated that their permanent/year-round residence outside of Coachella Valley was Mexico. Of these persons

- 62% stated that they own their home in Mexico;
- 62% stated that they have family who live in the same city in Mexico;
- 69% stated that they worked in their home city in Mexico;
- 44% stated that they attended school in their home city in Mexico.

#### 4. Language

As previously noted, 100% of the farm workers surveyed were Latino. When asked what “is the primary language/dialect spoken in your household”

- 95% stated Spanish;
- 3% stated English;
- 2% stated other.

Also, when asked what “is the primary language/dialect spoken where you work” 97% stated Spanish and 3% stated English.

Of the respondents who stated that Spanish was their primary language, 71% stated that they could not communicate in English. Of these persons, nearly two-thirds (65%) were interested in learning English. Also, when asked what other language (if any) do you speak other than the primary language spoken in your household, a low percentage (13%) of those whose primary language was Spanish stated that they also spoke English.

#### 5. Education

The questions concerning education focused on attending school in the United States and attending school outside the United States. Twenty-four percent (24%) of respondents stated that they attended school in the United States. Of these persons,

- 53% did not finish high school;
- 47% finished high school;
- 12% finished some post-high school education such as adult education and college.



Seventy-six percent (76%) of respondents stated that they attended school outside of the United States. Of these persons,

- 82% did not finish high school;
- 18% finished high school;
- 12% finished some post-high school education such as adult education and college.

An additional question focused on vocational training. The question asked each respondent if they completed a vocational training course. Six percent (6%) of respondents stated yes.

## 6. Familial Status

The first question asked within this category inquired about marital status. The majority (64%) of respondents stated that they were married. Fourteen (14%) of respondents stated that they were together by common law and 22% stated that they were single.

## 7. Children

The next category of questions focused on children under the age of 18. The first question, however, asked “Are you the parent or guardian raising children under 18 in your household.” Fifty-four (54%) of respondents stated “yes.” Of these respondents, 98% stated they were the parents of the children they were raising and 2% stated they were the grandparents.

Most of the questions centered on the health of the children. The questions and answers given by respondents appear in the table below.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes	No
1. Have you/your spouse taken your children to see a doctor in the last twelve months?	82%	18%
2. Have you/your spouse taken your children to see a dentist in the last twelve months?	64%	36%
3. Have you been able to obtain health care services for your children when needed?	77%	23%

There were two (2) questions that focused on health problems. The first question was “Do any of your children have a physical disability that impairs activities such as walking, eating, breathing, vision, hearing, etc.?” One percent 1% of respondents noted that their children had such a disability.

The second question was “Do any of your children have any of the following health problems” which the table below lists along with the percentage of children who have such problems.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes
1. Anemia.....	2%
2. High Blood Pressure.....	1%
3. Deafness.....	0%
4. Respiratory Problems.....	0%
5. Digestive Trouble.....	0%
6. Tuberculosis.....	0%
7. Dental Problems.....	5%
8. Heart Trouble.....	0%
9. Asthma.....	1%
10. Infections.....	1%
11. Diabetes.....	0%
12. Strokes.....	0%
13. Hepatitis.....	0%
14. Vision Problems.....	2%
15. Arthritis.....	0%
16. Hypertension.....	0%
17. Dermatitis.....	0%
18. Seizures.....	0%
19. Dizziness.....	0%
20. Memory Problems.....	1%
21. Don't Know.....	6%

The last two questions in this category were “Have you attempted to obtain any government benefits assistance for your children” and if “yes” which benefits. Thirty-one percent (31%) of respondents stated that they have attempted to obtain any government benefits assistance for their children. Of these persons

- 52% stated Medi-Cal;
- 32% stated Food Stamps;
- 2% stated Woman Infant Children (WIC);
- 2% stated Child Health Disability Prevention (CHDP);
- 1% stated Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

## 8. Housing Situation

The first set of questions concerning housing focused on type of housing and residents. The very first question asked respondents to describe their living space. The choices appear in the following table.

Type of Living Space	Percent
Apartment	16.0
House	24.0
Mobile Home	40.0
Converted Garage	3.0
Motel/Hotel	0.0
Emergency Shelter	0.0
Employer Provided Housing	0.0
Public Sponsored Migrant Housing	2.0
Rooming House/Dormitory	5.0
Trailer/RV On Private Residential Property	2.0
Car/Truck/Van/Trailer On Streets Or Parking Lot	5.0
Outdoors Or Other Location Not Meant For Living	3.0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The next couple of questions centered on persons living with respondents.

QUESTIONS	Yes	No
Do You Live With Family Members?	64%	36%
Do You Live With People Not Related To You?	23%	77%

The second set of questions concerning housing focused on rent. The majority of respondents are renters. When asked if they own or rent the location where they live

- 71% stated that they rent their housing;
- 20% stated they own their housing;
- 9% stated not-applicable.

Renters were asked if the lease was in their name or do you live with another person whose name was on the lease. The responses were as follows:

- 24% stated that their name was on the lease;
- 35% stated that another person's name was on the lease.

The next question concerned cost of monthly rent. Two-thirds of respondents were paying less than \$500 per month. Of these respondents,

- 15% stated less than \$200 per month;
- 27% stated less than \$300 per month;
- 46% stated less than \$400 per month;
- 66% stated less than \$500 per month.



Of those who were paying \$500 or more

- 7% were paying between \$500 and \$599;
- 26% were paying \$600 or more.

All survey respondents were asked questions about their housing conditions. The questions and their responses are noted in the table below.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes	No
1. Do You Have Running Water?	91%	9%
2. Do You Have Hot Water?	85%	15%
3. Do You Have Electricity?	91%	9%
4. Do You Have Toilet Facilities?	91%	9%
5. Do You Have Shower Facilities?	88%	12%
6. Do You Have Heat/Air?	72%	28%
7. Do You Have a Telephone?	68%	32%
8. Do You Have an Oven/Stove?	85%	15%
9. Do You Have a Refrigerator?	88%	12%

Of all respondents, 6% stated “no” to all of the above questions.

The remaining questions within this category focused on government funded housing. The questions and their responses are noted in the following table.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes	No
Are You Aware Of Any Government Funded Housing Available For Migrant/Seasonal Farm Workers In Coachella Valley?	35%	65%
Have You Ever Lived In Any Government Funded Housing Available For Migrant/Seasonal Farm Workers In Coachella Valley?	14%	86%
Have You Ever Applied For A Government Funded Housing Program Of Any Kind In Coachella Valley (Migrant Housing, Section 8, Etc.)?	10%	90%
Do You Currently Receive Assistance Through A Government Funded Housing Program In Coachella Valley (Migrant Housing, Section 8, Etc.)?	7%	93%

## 9. Food

Questions concerning food focused on a range of related subjects including number of daily meals, equipment, places of purchase, and sufficient income to purchase foods. The very first question “How many meals do you usually eat each day?” was answered as follows:

- 57% stated three (3) meals per day;
- 40% stated (two) meals per day;
- 3% stated one (1) meal per day.

The next two (2) questions concerned storing and preparing food. As the following table notes, a large majority of respondents have a place to store/refrigerate food and a place/equipment to prepare meals where they live.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes	No
Do You Have A Place(s) To Store/Refrigerate Food Where You Live Today?	88%	12%
Do You Have A Place/Equipment To Prepare Meals Where You Live Today?	86%	14%

Obtaining food was also of concern. One question asked respondents where they “usually go to purchase food to prepare” for yourself and other household members. The range of answers follows:

- 60% stated at a grocery store;
- 21% stated at a convenience store;
- 18% stated at a neighborhood market.

Another question concerning obtaining food asked “How often do you buy food for you/your family from a fast food/restaurant location during a typical week?” Nearly a third of respondents stated rarely or never and about half (49%) stated once or twice a week. The range of answers follows:

- 49% stated once or twice a week;
- 20% stated rarely
- 11% stated never;
- 11% stated three to four times a week;
- 5% stated every meal;
- 2% stated five to six times per week;
- 2% stated at least once a day.



Questions about having enough income for food were also asked. Two (2) of these questions and related answers are noted in the next table. A large majority (80%) stated that they have enough income for food for themselves and household members to last through the month, though more than one-third (36%) of respondents noted that they skip meals because there is not enough money to buy food.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes	No
Does Your Income Allow You To Provide Enough Food For You/ Your Household To Last Through The Month?	80%	20%
Do You Ever Have To Skip Meals Because There Is Not Enough Money To Buy Food?	36%	64%

The last question in this section related to children—If you have children, do they participate in the free/reduced meal program at school. Of the survey respondents who had children, 31% stated that their children did participate in the free/reduced meal program at school.

## 10. Employment and Income

This category had the largest number of questions because some questions concerned the spouse of respondents. The questions concerning a spouse, however, were only answered if the spouse was also a farm worker.

The first questions asked of farm workers (not of spouse) focused on “How often do you work doing farm labor.” The first question specifically asked “how many hours do you work per day.” The range of answers includes:

- 79% stated eight (8) hours a day;
- 21% stated between 10 and 12 hours a day.

The next question asked respondents “how many days per week do you work?” The range of answers includes:

- 53% stated five (5) days a week;
- 42% stated six (6) days a week;
- 5% stated seven (7) days a week.

The remaining questions in this category focused on income. The first question asked “What is your rate of pay based on?” The breakdown of answers is two-fold

- 95% stated that their rate of pay was based on hours;
- 5% (4) stated by the box/quantity.

The next question asked “How much do you earn doing farm labor on average per hour?” and the answers primarily ranged between \$6.75 and \$9.00 per hour as noted below.

- 58% stated that they are paid between \$6.75 and \$7.00 per hour;
- 35% stated between \$7.15 and \$9.00 per hour;
- 7% stated \$10 or more.

The question above was followed by “How much do you earn doing farm labor on average per week?” and the answers primarily ranged between \$200 and \$400 per week as noted below

- 54% stated that they earn between \$301 and \$400 per week;
- 27% stated between \$201 and \$300 per week;
- 19% stated more than \$400 per week.

How payments were received and cashed was also a concern.

- 99% stated that they were paid by check and one percent (1%) stated cash;
- 64% stated that they go to the market to cash their check;
- 29% stated a bank;
- 7% stated check cashing stores, employers, and friends and family.

The next set of questions concerned missing work due to illness, overtime pay, labor and civil rights, and information and/or assistance from a labor union. The questions and related answers are given in the table below.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes	No
Do You Ever Get Paid If You Have To Miss A Day Of Farm Work Due To Illness?	10%	90%
Are You Allowed To Return To The Same Job Location If You Miss A Day Of Work Due To Illness?	66%	34%
Are You Paid An Overtime Rate If You Work More Than 8 Hours In A Day Or 40 Hours In A Week?	50%	50%
Are You Aware Of Your Labor And/Or Civil Rights As An Employee In California?	41%	59%
Have You Ever Received Information And/ Or Assistance From A Labor Union?	29%	71%

The following two (2) questions were related to a checking or savings account which revealed that the majority of respondents did not have a checking or savings account with a bank either within the U.S. or with a bank outside of the U.S.

# QUESTIONS

	Yes	No
Do You Or Your Spouse Have A Checking Or Savings Account With A U.S. Bank?	73%	27%
Do You Or Your Spouse Have A Checking Or Savings Account With A Bank Outside The U.S.?	16%	84%

This category also included a question about other work for money—“Do you or your spouse do any work other than farm work to earn money?” Eighty-two percent (82%) of respondents stated that they or their spouse do not do any other work than farm work to earn money.

The last set of questions within this section concerned household income. The first question asked was “Does any other family member living with you today contribute to your household income?” Twenty-three percent (23%) of respondents said “yes.”

Respondents also stated the amount of their annual household income when asked. The range of their income is as follows:

- 78% stated that their annual household income was less than \$15,000;
- 11% stated that their annual household income was between \$15,000 and \$20,000;
- 9% stated that their annual household income was more than \$20,000.

Respondents were also asked if they sent “any of the income you earn to family outside the U.S.?” Seventy-five (75%) of respondents stated that they send income that they earn to family outside the U.S. Those that did were asked “on average how much money do you send per month.” The range of their answers is given below.

- 23.3% said less than \$100;
- 31.4% said between \$101 and \$200;
- 16.5% said between \$201 and \$300;
- 7.3% said between \$301 and \$400;
- 12% said over \$400.

The last question in this category concerned government benefits assistance. Respondents were asked “Have you or your spouse attempted to apply for any government benefits assistance.” Thirty-three (33%) said “yes.”

## 11. Transportation

Survey questions concerning transportation primarily focused on source, cost, and access.

Questions concerning source of transportation included “Do you own a car?” and “What is your main source of transportation to work?” Sixty percent (60%) of respondents stated that they own a car. Nearly all respondents (95%) noted three (3) main sources of transportation to work which are outlined below.

- 55% stated that their main source of transportation to work was their own car;
- 25% stated that their main source of transportation to work was their co-worker;
- 15% stated that their main source of transportation to work was their family/friends;
- 5% stated walking and public transportation.

All of the respondents who stated that their main source of transportation to work was their co-worker or family/friends, paid their co-worker or family/friends for “rides to work.” When asked “how much per week” the amounts ranged as noted below.

- 10% stated \$5 - \$10;
- 17% stated \$11 - \$15;
- 31% stated \$16 - \$20;
- 31% stated \$20 - \$25;
- 11% stated more than \$25.

“Do you ever miss work due to lack of transportation” was another survey concern. Forty-two (42%) stated “yes.” Another concern focused on lack of transportation to other places. When asked “Do you have trouble getting to service locations or other places you need to go due to lack of transportation” 40% stated “yes.”

## 12. Health Status

Questions concerning health status covered a variety of topics that included health insurance, visits to health care providers, physical disabilities, illnesses, medications, substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS.

When asked “Do you have private medical/health insurance” a large majority (87%) of respondents said “no.” Those who said “yes” were asked if “their insurance provided coverage outside the United States.” A little less than half (46%) of those that had private medical/health insurance said that their insurance provided coverage outside the United States. In addition, these same respondents stated “yes” when asked “does your coverage include your family?” One other question concerning insurance was “Do you have U.S. government sponsored health insurance (Medi-Cal, CHDP, etc.)?” Twenty-six percent (26%) said “yes.”

Questions also concerned health care visits. When asked if they had seen a doctor and a dentist during the past 12 months, 50% of respondents stated that they had seen a doctor in the last 12 months and 32% a dentist. Those that answered “no” were asked “why” and

- 57% said it was too expensive;
- 30% said they lacked insurance;
- 13% gave a variety of reasons such as may affect legal status, lack of transportation, and did not have the time.

When asked how often they “usually go to receive health care services during a typical year,” responses were as follows:

- 37% said once or twice a year;
- 24% only for emergencies;
- 20% said never;
- 13% said three (3) to four (4) times a year;
- 6% said nearly every other month (five (5) to six (6) times a year).

When asked “Where do you usually go to receive health care services?”, a range of answers were given that include the following:

- 48% went to health clinics;
- 24% went to Mexico;
- 15% went to a private hospital/clinic;
- 11% stated “never;”
- 2% noted other places such as emergency rooms and drug stores.

There were two (2) questions that specifically focused on Mexico. They were “Do you ever go to Mexico to receive medical services” and if so “how often.” Thirty-two percent (32%) of respondents said “yes” and

- nearly half (48%) said once or twice a year;
- nearly half (48%) said “only for emergencies;”
- 2% said more than twice a year.

The next two (2) questions concerned physical disabilities—one question asked if the person being surveyed had a physical disability and the other question asked if their spouse had a physical disability. Nine percent (9%) stated that they had a physical disability and eight percent (8%) of their spouses had a disability.

In addition, there were two (2) questions concerning vision—“do you use glasses or contacts” and “Have you had your vision checked or received vision care in the last 12 months?” Sixteen percent (16%) stated that they use glasses or contacts and 17% stated that they had their vision checked or received vision care in the last 12 months.

Also, a list of questions that focused on health problems was asked. The specific question was “Do you or any adults in your family have any of the following health problems?”

Over half (54%) of respondents stated that they have one or more of the following health problems.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes.....
1. Anemia.....	4%
2. High Blood Pressure.....	9%
3. Deafness.....	0%
4. Respiratory Problems.....	2%
5. Digestive Trouble.....	4%
6. Tuberculosis.....	0%
7. Dental Problems.....	5%
8. Heart Trouble.....	0%
9. Asthma.....	2%
10. Infections.....	0%
11. Diabetes.....	8%
12. Strokes.....	0%
13. Hepatitis.....	0%
14. Vision Problems.....	0%
15. Arthritis.....	0%
16. Dermatitis.....	0%
17. Seizures.....	0%
18. Dizziness.....	2%
19. Memory Problems.....	0%
20. Other.....	8%
21. Don't Know.....	21%

There were also two (2) questions that focused on pregnancy. The first question asked if “anyone in your family or household pregnant?” and the second asked “are they receiving prenatal care?” Eleven percent (11%) of respondents stated that someone in their family or household was pregnant and that all of them were receiving prenatal care.

Medications were also a concern within this category. The first two (2) questions asked were “Do you regularly take any prescription medications?” and if yes, “where do you usually go to obtain prescription medications?” Thirty-eight percent (38%) of respondents stated that they regularly take prescription medications and these persons noted the following about where they go to obtain prescription medications:

- 57% said at a local pharmacy;
- 26% said at a community clinic;
- 15% said in Mexico;
- 2% said through family and/or friends.

The table below notes two (2) other questions about medications that were asked and provides related responses.

QUESTIONS	Yes	No
1. Do You Ever Use Prescription Medications Bought In Mexico?	55%	45%
2. Do You Take/Use Any Home Remedies?	71%	29%

There were also two (2) questions that centered on mental health. The table below notes the two (2) questions and provides related responses.

QUESTIONS	Yes	No
1. Have You Ever Been Diagnosed With A Mental Or Emotional Problem?	3%	97%
2. Have You Ever Taken Any Prescribed Medications For Mental Or Emotional Problems?	2%	98%

There were also several questions about alcohol and other drugs. The first question focused on current use, past use, or no past or current use. The responses were as follows:

- 19% stated they were currently drinking alcoholic beverages;
- 23% stated that they drank alcoholic beverages in the past;
- 58% stated that they never drank alcoholic beverages.

Of those who stated that they were currently drinking alcoholic beverages

- 4% stated daily;
- 22% stated once or twice a week;
- 74% stated once in a while.

Also, of those who stated that they were currently drinking alcoholic beverages

- 24% stated that they were very interested in quitting;
- 29% stated somewhat interested in quitting;
- 47% stated not interested in quitting.

As previously noted, there were also questions about illegal drugs. The first question focused on current use, past use, or no past or current use. The responses were as follows:

- 1% stated they were currently using illegal drugs;
- 6% stated that they used illegal drugs in the past;
- 93% stated that they never used illegal drugs.



Of those who stated that they were currently using illegal drugs, all of them stated once in a while. Also, all of them stated that they were very interested in quitting.

Questions were asked about tobacco use. The first question focused on current use, past use, or no past or current use. The responses were as follows:

- 4% stated they were currently using tobacco;
- 10% stated that they used tobacco;
- 86% stated that they never used tobacco.

Of those currently using tobacco, 75% stated less than one (1) pack per day and 25% stated one (1) pack per day. More than half (57%) stated that they were very interested in quitting and 43% stated somewhat interested.

The last question in this category asked “Have you ever been tested for HIV/AIDS?” One out of three (33%) respondents stated “yes.”

### 13. Experience With Violence

The first question within this category asked “Have you or a family member ever been a victim of theft or violence where you live/sleep in the Coachella Valley?” Fifteen percent (15%) of respondents stated “yes.” The next table lists two (2) of the questions asked of those who stated “yes” and provides related answers.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes	No
1. Did You Report The Incident To The Police?	60%	40%
2. Did You Report The Incident To Anyone Other Than The Police?	60%	40%

The majority of persons stated that they also reported the incident to family and friends.

The second question within this category asked “Have you or a family member ever been a victim of theft or violence where you work in the Coachella Valley?” Eight percent (8%) of respondents stated “yes.” The next table lists three (3) of the questions asked of those who stated “yes” and provides related answers.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes	No
1. Did You Report The Incident To Your Employer?	75%	25%
2. Did You Report The Incident To The Police?	38%	62%
3. Did You Report The Incident To Anyone Other Than The Police?	38%	62%

The majority of persons stated that they also reported the incident to family and friends.



The third question within this category asked “Have you or a family member ever been a victim of theft or violence anywhere else in the Coachella Valley?” Six percent (6%) of respondents stated “yes.” The next table lists two (2) of the questions asked of those who stated “yes” and provides related answers.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes	No
1. Did You Report The Incident To The Police?	75%	25%
2. Did You Report The Incident To Anyone Other Than The Police?	50%	50%

Nearly everyone stated that they did not report the incident to someone other than the police.

#### 14. Social Services

“What social services have you (and your family) accessed during the past 12 months” was the primary question asked within this category.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes
1. Emergency Shelter.....	1%
2. Housing Placement Assistance.....	6%
3. Job Training.....	1%
4. Child Care.....	5%
5. Medical Care.....	29%
6. Dental Care.....	17%
7. Substance Abuse Treatment.....	2%
8. Food/Groceries.....	12%
9. Served Meals.....	4%
10. Planned Parenthood.....	12%
11. Rental Assistance.....	2%
12. Public Benefit Assistance.....	2%
13. Adult Education.....	5%
14. Public Schools.....	13%
15. Legal Assistance.....	2%
16. Mental Health Services.....	1%
17. Domestic Violence Assistance.....	0%
18. Showers/Bathrooms.....	9%
19. Clothing Laundry.....	14%
20. Immigration Services.....	10%
21. Other.....	0%

Two (2) other questions were asked within this category. One (1) question was “Do you have regular access to a shower” and 74% of respondents answered “yes.” The second question was “Do you have regular access to laundry facilities” and 74% of respondents answered “yes.”

A related question was also asked—“What services would be most helpful to you (and your family) while living in the Coachella Valley?” Their top five (5) answers are as follows:

- medical services;
- transportation;
- immigration assistance;
- legal services;
- affordable housing.

## 15. U.S. Residency

The last question in the survey asked about residency status. The question asked was “What is your U.S. residency status?”

- 41% stated that they were a legal permanent resident;
- 37% stated that they were undocumented;
- 13% stated that they had an authorized work permit;
- 9% stated that they were U.S. citizens.

## Section II: Farm Workers Who Live In The Coachella Valley Seasonally

The first section focused on farm workers who stated that they lived in the Coachella Valley year-round. Not all farm workers live in the Coachella Valley year-round. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of survey respondents stated that they lived in the valley seasonally. As a result, a separate section on seasonal or migrant farm workers follows.

### 1. Personal Characteristics

The first category was “personal characteristics” which consisted of four (4) questions that focused on gender, ethnicity, year of birth, and age.

#### a. Gender

The majority of seasonal farm workers were men though women made up a significant percent of workers. Of the farm workers surveyed, 76% were men and 24% were women.

#### b. Ethnicity

One hundred percent (100%) of seasonal farm workers surveyed were Latino.

#### c. Year of Birth/Age

Approximately one-third (32%) of seasonal farm workers surveyed were between the ages of 25 and 39. Twenty-seven percent (27%) were between ages 18 - 29 and 26% between the ages of 40 - 49. The remaining respondents (15%) were 50 years of age or older—eight percent (8%) were sixty years of age or older.

### 2. Geo-History

The second category was “geo-history” which consisted of two primary (2) questions—in what country and in what state were you born.

#### a. Country Born

The majority (95%) of seasonal farm workers surveyed were born in Mexico while 5% were born elsewhere—4% were born in the United States and 1% in El Salvador.

#### b. State Born

Of those born in Mexico, more than half (56%) were born in the following four (4) states: Michoacan (25%); Jalisco (12%); Guanajuato (10%); and Sinaloa (9%).

### 3. Residency

The first question asked within this category asked respondents if they lived in the Coachella Valley “year-round” or “seasonally?” and 28% stated that they lived in the Coachella Valley “seasonally.”

The next question asked “In what month did you come to the Coachella Valley this season?” The range of answers are as follows:

QUESTIONS.....	Percent
1. January _____	8
2. February _____	13
3. March _____	10
4. April _____	14
5. May _____	20
6. June _____	5
7. July _____	0
8. August _____	1
9. September _____	3
10. October _____	9
11. November _____	13
12. December _____	4
	100.0

The next question asked “In what month will you leave Coachella Valley this season? The range of answers are as follows:

QUESTIONS.....	Percent
1. January _____	0
2. February _____	0
3. March _____	1
4. April _____	0
5. May _____	2
6. June _____	18
7. July _____	56
8. August _____	11
9. September _____	4
10. October _____	2
11. November _____	1
12. December _____	5
	100.0

“How many months per year do you live in the Coachella Valley” was asked next. Their responses are below.

- 1% said one month;
- 6% said two months;
- 13% said three months;
- 10% said four months;
- 10% said five months;
- 13% said six months.

Combined, approximately half (53%) said six months or less. According to the following responses, nearly half (47%) said between seven and ten months.

- 11% said seven months;
- 20% said eight months;
- 12% said nine months;
- 4% said ten months.

Another related question was “Do you plan to return to Coachella Valley next season?” Ninety-three percent (93%) of seasonal farm workers stated “yes.”

Another question asked “In what city/community do you live today?” Ninety percent (90%) of respondents stated that they lived in the following five (5) areas

- 47% lived in Mecca;
- 20% lived in Thermal;
- 9% lived in Oasis;
- 8% lived in Indio;
- 6% lived in Coachella.

The next few questions within this category concerned “ties” to the community and the questions and related answers follow:

QUESTIONS.....	Yes	No
1. Do You Have Family Who Live In The City In Which You Live?	57%	43%
2. Besides Farm Work, Have You Ever Held Any Other Job In The Coachella Valley?	25%	75%
3. Have You Ever Attended School In The City In Which You Live Today?	22%	78%

#### 4. Language

As previously noted, 100% of the seasonal farm workers surveyed were Latino. When asked what “is the primary language/dialect spoken in your household”

- 98% stated Spanish;
- 1% stated English;
- 1% stated other.

Also, when asked what “is the primary language/dialect spoken where you work” 99% stated Spanish and 1% stated English.

Two (2) other questions helped reveal whether or not the farm workers surveyed spoke English or not. Of the respondents who stated that Spanish was their primary language, 80% stated that they could not communicate in English. Of these persons, nearly two-thirds (63%) were interested in learning English.

#### 5. Education

The questions concerning education focused on attending school in the United States and attending school outside the United States. Thirteen percent (13%) of respondents stated that they attended school in the United States. An additional question focused on vocational training. The question asked each respondent if they completed a vocational training course. Two percent (2%) of respondents stated (yes.)

#### 6. Familial Status

The first question asked within this category inquired about marital status. The majority (58%) of respondents stated that they were married. Fourteen (14%) of respondents stated that they were married by common law and 15% stated single. Thirteen percent (13%) stated other.

#### 7. Children

The next category of questions focused on children under the age of 18. The first question, however, asked “Are you the parent or guardian raising children under 18 in your household.” Forty (40%) of respondents stated “yes.” Of these respondents, 100% stated they were the parents of the children they were raising.

Most of the questions centered on the health of the children. The questions and answers given by respondents appear in the table below.



## QUESTIONS

	Yes	No
1. Have you/your spouse taken your children to see a doctor in the last twelve months?	72%	28%
2. Have you/your spouse taken your children to see a dentist in the last twelve months?	46%	54%
3. Have you been able to obtain health care services for your children when needed?	59%	41%

There were two (2) questions that focused on health problems. The first question was “Do any of your children have a physical disability that impairs activities such as walking, eating, breathing, vision, hearing, etc.?” One percent 1% of respondents noted that their children had such a disability.

The second question was “Do any of your children have any of the following health problems” which the table below lists along with the percentage of children who have such problems.

## QUESTIONS

	Yes
1. Anemia	0%
2. High Blood Pressure	0%
3. Deafness	0%
4. Respiratory Problems	0%
5. Digestive Trouble	0%
6. Tuberculosis	0%
7. Dental Problems	5%
8. Heart Trouble	0%
9. Asthma	0%
10. Infections	3%
11. Diabetes	0%
12. Strokes	0%
13. Hepatitis	0%
14. Vision Problems	5%
15. Arthritis	0%
16. Hypertension	0%
17. Dermatitis	0%
18. Seizures	0%
19. Dizziness	0%
20. Memory Problems	0%
21. Don't Know	7%

The last two questions in this category were “Have you attempted to obtain any government benefits assistance for your children” and if “yes” which benefits. Thirteen percent (13%) of respondents stated that they have attempted to obtain government benefits assistance for their children.

## 8. Housing Situation

The first set of questions concerning housing focused on type of housing and residents. The very first question asked respondents to describe their living space. The choices appear in the table below.

Type of Living Space	Percent
Apartment	9.0
House	12.0
Mobile Home	29.0
Converted Garage	8.0
Motel/Hotel	1.0
Emergency Shelter	0.0
Employer Provided Housing	1.0
Public Sponsored Migrant Housing	3.0
Rooming House/Dormitory	15.0
Trailer/RV On Private Residential Property	2.0
Car/Truck/Van/Trailer On Streets Or Parking Lot	15.0
Outdoors Or Other Location Not Meant For Living	5.0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The next couple of questions centered on persons living with respondents.

QUESTIONS	Yes	No
Do You Live With Family Members?	53%	47%
Do You Live With People Not Related To You?	40%	60%

The second set of questions concerning housing focused on rent. The majority of respondents are renters. When asked if they own or rent the location where they live

- 68% stated that they rent their housing;
- 2% stated they own their housing;
- 30% stated not-applicable.

Renters were asked if the lease was in their name or do you live with another person whose name is on the lease. The responses are as follows:

- 15% stated that their name was on the lease;
- 28% stated that another person's name was on the lease
- 57% stated nonapplicable.

The next question concerned cost of monthly rent. More than 90% were paying less than \$500 per month. Of these respondents,

- 10% stated less than \$200 per month;
- 45% stated less than \$300 per month;
- 60% stated less than \$400 per month;
- 92% stated less than \$500 per month.

Of those who were paying \$500 or more

- 4% were paying between \$500 and \$599;
- 4% were paying \$600 or more.

All seasonal farm workers were asked questions about their housing conditions. The questions and their responses are noted in the table below.

QUESTIONS	Yes	No
1. Do You Have Running Water?	79%	21%
2. Do You Have Hot Water?	65%	35%
3. Do You Have Electricity?	77%	23%
4. Do You Have Toilet Facilities?	82%	18%
5. Do You Have Shower Facilities?	74%	26%
6. Do You Have Heat/Air?	50%	50%
7. Do You Have a Telephone?	45%	55%
8. Do You Have an Oven/Stove?	67%	33%
9. Do You Have a Refrigerator?	73%	27%

Of all respondents, 14% stated “no” to all of the above questions.

The remaining questions within this category focused on government funded housing. The questions and their responses are noted in the following table.

## QUESTIONS

	Yes	No
Are You Aware Of Any Government Funded Housing Available For Migrant/Seasonal Farm Workers In Coachella Valley?	25%	75%
Have You Ever Lived In Any Government Funded Housing Available For Migrant/Seasonal Farm Workers In Coachella Valley?	13%	87%
Have You Ever Applied For A Government Funded Housing Program Of Any Kind In Coachella Valley (Migrant Housing, Section 8, Etc.)?	10%	90%
Do You Currently Receive Assistance Through A Government Funded Housing Program In Coachella Valley (Migrant Housing, Section 8, Etc.)?	6%	94%

### 9. Food

Questions concerning food focused on a range of related subjects including number of daily meals, equipment, places of purchase, and sufficient income to purchase foods. The very first question “How many meals do you usually eat each day?” was answered as follows:

- 54% stated three (3) meals per day;
- 36% stated (two) meals per day;
- 10% stated one (1) meal per day.

The next two (2) questions concerned storing and preparing food. As the following table notes, a majority of respondents have a place to store/refrigerate food and a place/equipment to prepare meals where they live.

## QUESTIONS

	Yes	No
Do You Have A Place(s) To Store/Refrigerate Food Where You Live Today?	73%	27%
Do You Have A Place/Equipment To Prepare Meals Where You Live Today?	73%	27%

Obtaining food was also of concern. One question asked respondents where they “usually go to purchase food to prepare” for yourself and other household members. The range of answers follows:

- 40% stated at a grocery store;
- 25% stated at a convenience store;
- 29% stated at a neighborhood market.

Another question concerning obtaining food asked “How often do you buy food for you/your family from a fast food/restaurant location during a typical week?” The range of answers follows:

- 41% stated once or twice a week;
- 12% stated rarely;
- 4% stated never;
- 4% stated three to four times a week;
- 13% stated every meal;
- 14% stated five to six times per week;
- 3% stated at least once a day.

Asking questions about having enough income for food were also asked. Two (2) of these questions and related answers are noted in the next table. A majority (69%) stated that they have enough income for food for themselves and household members to last through the month, though more than one-third (43%) of respondents noted that they skip meals because there is not enough money to buy food.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes	No
Does Your Income Allow You To Provide Enough Food For You/Your Household To Last Through The Month?	69%	31%
Do You Ever Have To Skip Meals Because There Is Not Enough Money To Buy Food?	43%	57%

The last question in this section related to children—If you have children, do they participate in the free/reduced meal program at school? Of the survey respondents who had children, 14% stated that their children did participate in the free/reduced meal program at school.

## 10. Employment and Income

This category had the largest number of questions because some questions concerned the spouse of respondents. The questions concerning a spouse, however, were only answered if the spouse was also a farm worker.

The first questions asked of farm workers (not of spouse) focused on “How often do you work doing farm labor.” The first question specifically asked “how many hours do you work per day.” The range of answers includes:

- 11% stated six (6) hours per day;
- 67% stated eight (8) hours a day;
- 22% stated between 10 and 12 hours a day.

The next question asked respondents “how many days per week do you work?” The range of answers includes:

- 55% stated five (5) days a week;
- 45% stated six (6) days a week.

The remaining questions in this category focused on income. The first question asked “What is your rate of pay based on?” The breakdown of answers is two-fold:

- 83% stated that their rate of pay was based on hours;
- 17% stated by the box/quantity.

The next question asked “How much do you earn doing farm labor on average per hour?” and the answers ranged between \$6.75 and \$9.00 per hour as noted below.

- 61% stated that they are paid between \$6.75 and \$7.00 per hour;
- 39% stated between \$7.15 and \$9.00 per hour.

The question above was followed by “How much do you earn doing farm labor on average per week?” and the answers primarily ranged between \$200 and \$400 per week as noted below:

- 44% stated that they earn between \$301 and \$400 per week;
- 50% stated between \$201 and \$300 per week;
- 6% stated more than \$400 per week.

How payments were received and cashed was also a concern.

- 99% stated that they were paid by check and one percent (1%) stated cash;
- 66% stated that they go to the market to cash their check;
- 22% stated check cashing stores, employers, and friends and family;
- 12% stated a bank.

The next set of questions concerned missing work due to illness, overtime pay, labor and civil rights, and information and/or assistance from a labor union. The questions and related answers are given in the following table.

## QUESTIONS

	Yes	No
Do You Ever Get Paid If You Have To Miss A Day Of Farm Work Due To Illness?	10%	90%
Are You Allowed To Return To The Same Job Location If You Miss A Day Of Work Due To Illness?	62%	38%
Are You Paid An Overtime Rate If You Work More Than 8 Hours In A Day Or 40 Hours In A Week?	38%	62%
Are You Aware Of Your Labor And/Or Civil Rights As An Employee In California?	27%	73%
Have You Ever Received Information And/Or Assistance From A Labor Union?	22%	78%

The following two (2) questions were related to a checking or savings account which reveal that the majority of respondents did not have a checking or savings account with a bank either within the U.S. or with a bank outside of the U.S.

## QUESTIONS

	Yes	No
Do You Or Your Spouse Have A Checking Or Savings Account With A U.S. Bank?	13%	87%
Do You Or Your Spouse Have A Checking Or Savings Account With A Bank Outside The U.S.?	13%	87%

This category also included a question about other work for money—“Do you or your spouse do any work other than farm work to earn money?” Eighty-two percent (83%) of respondents stated that they or their spouse do not do any other work than farm work to earn money.

The last set of questions within this section concerned household income. The first question asked was “Does any other family member living with you today contribute to your household income?” Twenty-seven percent (27%) of respondents said “yes.”

Respondents also stated the amount of their annual household income when asked. The range of their income is as follows:

- 97% stated that their annual household income was less than \$15,000;
- 3% stated that their annual household income was between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

Respondents were also asked if they sent “any of the income you earn to family outside the U.S.?” Sixty-eight (68%) of respondents stated that they send income that they earn to family outside the U.S. Those that did were asked “on average how much money do you send per month.” The range of their answers is as follows:



- 9% said less than \$100;
- 31% said between \$101 and \$200;
- 23% said between \$201 and \$300;
- 19% said between \$301 and \$400;
- 18% said over \$400.

The last question in this category concerned government benefits assistance. Respondents were asked “Have you or your spouse attempted to apply for any government benefits assistance.” Thirty-one (31%) said “yes.”

## 11. Transportation

Survey questions concerning transportation primarily focused on source, cost, and access.

Questions concerning source of transportation included “Do you own a car?” and “What is your main source of transportation to work?” Forty-five percent (45%) of respondents stated that they own a car. Nearly all respondents (99%) noted three (3) main sources of transportation to work which are outlined below.

- 45% stated that their main source of transportation to work was their own car;
- 33% stated that their main source of transportation to work was their family/friends;
- 21% stated that their main source of transportation to work was their co-worker.

All of the respondents who stated that their main source of transportation to work was their co-worker or family/friends paid their co-worker or family/friends for “rides to work.” When asked “how much per week” the amounts ranged as noted below.

- 14% stated \$5 - \$10;
- 16% stated \$11 - \$15;
- 30% stated \$16 - \$20;
- 32% stated \$20 - \$25;
- 8% stated more than \$25.

“Do you ever miss work due to lack of transportation” was another survey concern. Forty-eight (48%) stated “yes.” Another concern focused on lack of transportation to other places. When asked “Do you have trouble getting to service locations or other places you need to go due to lack of transportation” 42% stated “yes.”

## 12. Health Status

Questions concerning health status covered a variety of topics that included health insurance, visits to health care providers, physical disabilities, illnesses, medications, substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS.

When asked “Do you have private medical/health insurance” a large majority (92%) of respondents said “no.” Those who said “yes” were asked if “their insurance provided coverage outside the United States.” A little less than half (66%) of those who had private medical/health insurance said that their insurance provided coverage outside the United States. In addition, these same respondents stated “yes” when asked “does your coverage include your family.” One other question concerning insurance was “Do you have U.S. government sponsored health insurance (Medi-Cal, CHDP, etc.)?” Ten percent (10%) said “yes.”

Questions also concerned health care visits. When asked if they had seen a doctor and a dentist during the past 12 months, 36% of respondents stated that they had seen a doctor in the last 12 months and 19% a dentist. Those that answered “no” were asked “why” and

- 51% said it was too expensive;
- 38% said they lacked insurance;
- 11% gave a variety of reasons such as may affect legal status, lack of transportation, and did not have the time.

When asked “Where do you usually go to receive health care services?”, a range of answers were given that include

- 39% went to Mexico;
- 32% stated “never;”
- 15% went to a private hospital/clinic;
- 13% went to health clinics;
- 1% noted other places such as emergency rooms and drug stores.

There were two (2) questions that specifically focused on Mexico. They were “Do you ever go to Mexico to receive medical services” and if so “how often.” Fifty-eight percent (58%) of respondents said “yes” and

- nearly half (50%) said once or twice a year;
- nearly half (49%) said “only for emergencies;”
- 1% said more than twice a year.

The next two (2) questions concerned physical disabilities—one question asked if the person being surveyed had a physical disability and the other question asked if their spouse had a physical disability. Six percent (6%) stated that they had a physical disability and nine percent (9%) of their spouses had a disability.

In addition, there were two (2) questions concerning vision—“do you use glasses or contacts” and “Have you had your vision checked or received vision care in the last 12 months?” Twenty percent (20%) stated that they use glasses or contacts and 14% stated that they had their vision checked or received vision care in the last 12 months.

Also, a list of questions that focused on health problems was asked. The specific question was “Do you or any adults in your family have any of the following health problems?” Nearly two-thirds (61%) of respondents stated that they have one or more of the following health problems.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes.....
1. Anemia.....	4%
2. High Blood Pressure.....	7%
3. Deafness.....	1%
4. Respiratory Problems.....	4%
5. Digestive Trouble.....	2%
6. Tuberculosis.....	0%
7. Dental Problems.....	6%
8. Heart Trouble.....	4%
9. Asthma.....	5%
10. Infections.....	0%
11. Diabetes.....	7%
12. Strokes.....	0%
13. Hepatitis.....	0%
14. Vision Problems.....	10%
15. Arthritis.....	5%
16. Dermatitis.....	0%
17. Seizures.....	0%
18. Dizziness.....	2%
19. Memory Problems.....	0%
20. Other.....	0%
21. Don't Know.....	39%

There were also two (2) questions that focused on pregnancy. The first question asked if “anyone in your family or household pregnant?” and the second asked “are they receiving prenatal care?” Nine percent (9%) of respondents stated that someone in their family or household was pregnant and that all of them were receiving prenatal care.

Medications were also a concern within this category. The first two (2) questions asked were “Do you regularly take any prescription medications?” and if yes, “where do you usually go to obtain prescription medications?” Thirty-five percent (35%) of respondents stated that they regularly take prescription medications and these persons noted the following about where they go to obtain prescription medications:

- 41% said in Mexico;
- 35% said at a local pharmacy;
- 15% said at a community clinic;
- 9% said through family and/or friends.

The table below notes two (2) other questions about medications that were asked and provides related responses.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes	No
1. Do You Ever Use Prescription Medications Bought In Mexico?	70%	30%
2. Do You Take/Use Any Home Remedies?	64%	36%

There were also two (2) questions that centered on mental health. The table below notes the two (2) questions and provides related responses.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes	No
1. Have You Ever Been Diagnosed With A Mental Or Emotional Problem?	2%	98%
2. Have You Ever Taken Any Prescribed Medications For Mental Or Emotional Problems?	0%	100%

There were also several questions about alcohol and other drugs. The first question focused on current use, past use, or no past or current use. The responses were as follows:

- 41% stated they were currently drinking alcoholic beverages;
- 24% stated that they drank alcoholic beverages in the past;
- 35% stated that they never drank alcoholic beverages.

Of those who stated that they were currently drinking alcoholic beverages

- 22% stated daily;
- 12% stated three or four times a week;
- 20% stated once or twice a week;
- 44% stated once in a while.

Also, of those who stated that they were currently drinking alcoholic beverages

- 12% stated that they were very interested in quitting;
- 28% stated somewhat interested in quitting;
- 60% stated not interested in quitting.

As previously noted, there were also questions about illegal drugs. The first question focused on current use, past use, or no past or current use. The following table provides their responses to these questions:

## QUESTIONS

	Yes	No
1. Did You Report The Incident To The Police?	17%	83%
2. Did You Report The Incident To Anyone Other Than The Police?	15%	85%

The second question within this category asked “Have you or a family member ever been a victim of theft or violence where you work in the Coachella Valley?” Nine percent (9%) of respondents stated “yes.” The next table lists two (2) of the questions asked of those who stated “yes” and provides related answers.

- 3% stated they were currently using illegal drugs;
- 9% stated that they used illegal drugs in the past;
- 88% stated that they never used illegal drugs in the past.

Of those who stated that they were currently using illegal drugs, all of them stated once in a while. Also, all of them stated that they were very interested in quitting.

Questions were asked about tobacco use. The first question focused on current use, past use, or no past or current use. The responses were as follows:

- 12% stated they were currently using tobacco;
- 21% stated that they used tobacco;
- 73% stated that they never used tobacco.

Of those currently using tobacco, 75% stated less than one (1) pack per day and 25% stated one (1) pack per day. Half (50%) stated that they were very interested in quitting and 50% stated somewhat interested.

The last question in this category asked “Have you ever been tested for HIV/AIDS?” One out of five (20%) respondents stated “yes.”

### 13. Experience With Violence

The first question within this category asked “Have you or a family member ever been a victim of theft or violence where you live/sleep in the Coachella Valley?” Twelve percent (12%) of respondents stated “yes.” The next table lists two (2) of the questions asked of those who stated “yes” and provides related answers.

## QUESTIONS

	Yes	No
1. Did You Report The Incident To The Police?	0%	100%
2. Did You Report The Incident To Anyone Other Than The Police?	0%	100%

The second question within this category asked “Have you or a family member ever been a victim of theft or violence where you work in the Coachella Valley?” Nine percent (9%) of respondents stated “yes.” The next table lists three (3) of the questions asked of those who stated “yes” and provides related answers.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes	No
1. Did You Report The Incident To Your Employer?	45%	55%
2. Did You Report The Incident To The Police?	9%	91%
3. Did You Report The Incident To Anyone Other Than The Police?	20%	80%

The third question within this category asked “Have you or a family member ever been a victim of theft or violence anywhere else in the Coachella Valley?” One percent (1%) of respondents stated “yes.” The next table lists two (2) of the questions asked of those who stated “yes” and provides related answers.

#### 14. Social Services

“What social services have you (and your family) accessed during the past 12 months” was the primary question asked within this category.

QUESTIONS.....	Yes
1. Emergency Shelter.....	0%
2. Housing Placement Assistance.....	5%
3. Job Training.....	1%
4. Child Care.....	3%
5. Medical Care.....	16%
6. Dental Care.....	6%
7. Substance Abuse Treatment.....	0%
8. Food/Groceries.....	14%
9. Served Meals.....	4%
10. Planned Parenthood.....	4%
11. Rental Assistance.....	1%
12. Public Benefit Assistance.....	1%
13. Adult Education.....	1%
14. Public Schools.....	1%
15. Legal Assistance.....	0%
16. Mental Health Services.....	0%
17. Domestic Violence Assistance.....	0%
18. Showers/Bathrooms.....	12%
19. Clothing Laundry.....	12%
20. Immigration Services.....	4%
21. Other.....	0%

Two (2) other questions were asked within this category. One (1) question was “Do you have regular access to a shower” and 83% of respondents answered “yes.” The second question was “Do you have regular access to laundry facilities” and 88% of respondents answered “yes.”

A related question was also asked—“What services would be most helpful to you (and your family) while living in the Coachella Valley?” Their top five (5) answers are as follows:

- medical services;
- transportation;
- immigration assistance;
- affordable housing;
- legal services.

## 15. U.S. Residency

The last question survey asked about residency status. The question asked was “What is your U.S. residency status?” Thirty-five percent (35%) stated that they were undocumented; 35% stated that they were a legal permanent resident; 25% stated that they had an authorized work permit; and 5% stated that they were U.S. citizens.



# CONCLUSION

This study helped gain insight into the living and working conditions of year-round and seasonal farm workers living in eastern Coachella Valley. This study also helped gain insight into their daily service needs. As a result, it is apparent that there are issues concerning health care, housing, education, employment, income, and transportation.

The findings of this study note that obstacles or barriers to ameliorate these issues include

- limited understanding of health problems and risks;
- lack of access to adequate transportation;
- lack of compensation for working more than eight (8) hours in a day;
- lack of “sick pay” when farm workers miss work due to illness.

The challenging obstacles or barriers surrounding the health, transportation, housing, education, and income needs of workers need more attention from community stakeholders in order to overcome these challenges. Such attention and action should be directed towards the findings in this report. Doing so will result in further information and an increased understanding of the issues and challenges concerning the needs of farm workers by stakeholders. Improving the living and working conditions of farm workers will enhance their ability to continue to be a productive work force and help keep the agricultural industry thriving.

**Questions and comments can be directed to:**

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Homeless Programs Unit

(951) 358-5636

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