

University of Connecticut (UConn) Migrant Farm Worker Clinic Experience

Created by:



Connecting Students to Careers in Health,
Health Professionals to Communities,
and Communities to Better Health

UConn
HEALTH

Who Are Migrant Farm Workers?

Connecticut hosts between 7,000 and 20,000 migrant farm workers each growing season to work at orchards and nurseries, as well as tobacco, mushroom, dairy and vegetable farms.



Several different populations of migrant farm workers pass through the state each summer, including Jamaicans, Mexicans, South and Central Americans.



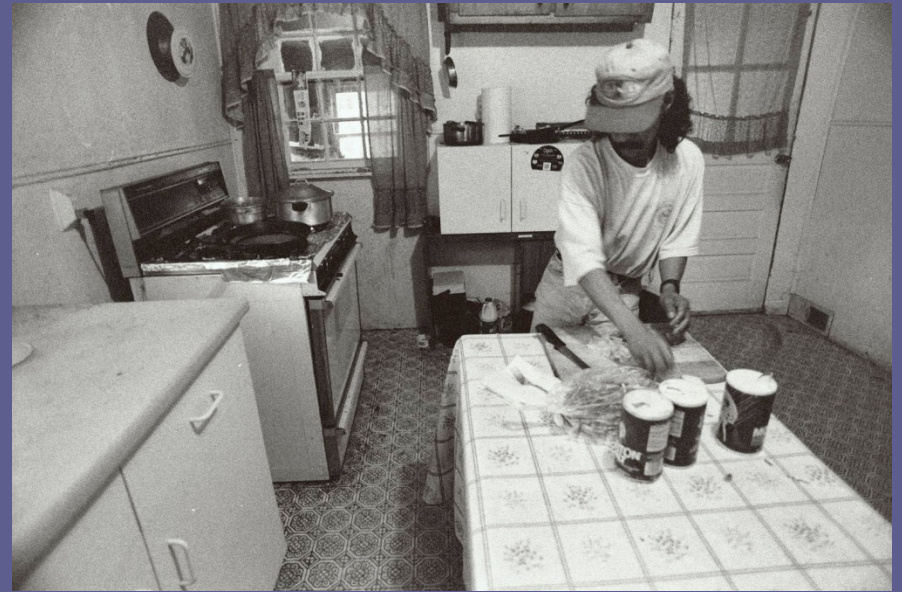
Some live in camps and barracks provided by the growers at the farms. Others live in crowded apartments shared with co-workers and are bussed or carpool out to the farms each day.



These migrant farm workers may be documented or undocumented. Many laborers from the West Indies are brought to Connecticut on special visas (H2A) supplied through the Department of Labor.



All these populations hold in
common their lack of access to
health care...



What We Do...

The mobile clinic visits farms 3 evenings per week (Tues, Wed, Thurs) in the summer and one evening per week in the fall (Wed) arriving as the workers are returning from the fields.



The clinic is staffed by licensed physicians, medical and dental students as well as an array of high school, undergraduate, and health professions students.



The scope of service provided by this mobile clinic includes blood pressure and diabetes screenings, as well as primary care screenings for mild and/or self-limiting conditions.



Patients in need of laboratory services or who need more intense treatment or follow up are referred to one of the partnering Community Health Centers.



A limited formulary of medications are provided to patients at the clinic. These medications are donated from local pharmacies or are purchased wholesale using grant funds.



All non-formulary medications are dispensed by prescription or by referral to partnering Community Health Centers where medications may be covered by a federal voucher program.

What You Need to Know About Population Health & Patient Privacy

1. Cultural Competency
2. Health Literacy
3. HIPAA –Patient Privacy



What is Cultural Competency...

The knowledge and interpersonal skills that allow providers to understand, appreciate, and work with individuals from cultures other than their own.

It involves an awareness and acceptance of cultural differences; self awareness; knowledge of the patient's culture and health beliefs; and adaptation of skills.

~Culturally Competent Health Care for Adolescents, AMA 1994



Samples of Culturally Competent Behaviors for Health Care Providers

- It is best to use the patient's last name and formal pronouns when addressing the patient
- Gestures can mean very different things in different cultures. For example, in Latin America, a shrug with palms upwards may be interpreted as a vulgar gesture. Use hand and arm gestures with great caution.
- Don't force a patient to make eye contact with you. The patient may be treating you with greater respect by not making eye contact. Sustained eye contact may be considered rude in some cultures.

Noteworthy Considerations for Interpersonal Communication with Hispanic and Latino/a Farm Workers

- “Evil Eye” is believed to be a cause of illness in children stemming from looking at or admiring a child, but not touching them
- Often times migrant farm workers will not accept condoms as birth control (any contraceptives) conflicts with their religion (even though sex workers frequent the farms). Male farm workers will not accept condoms from females as it is perceived as an insult to their “machismo.”

What is Health Literacy?

Health Literacy is the degree to which individual have the capacity to obtain, process and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions. ↵Healthy People 2010



Anyone including the very educated
& literate can still have a low health literacy level

Health Literacy Considerations with Migrant Farm Workers

The average migrant farm worker in Connecticut has a 6th grade reading level; many are also illiterate or literate in a language other than English. Therefore, communications in the appropriate language (both written and oral) should be in simple language.



HIPAA - Patient Confidentiality: Why is it important? It's the law.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA): was developed by the federal government to safeguard Protected Health Information

In your packet, there is a MFW Clinic specific HIPAA form that lists logistics of maintaining HIPAA in our unique outdoors/open-air clinical environment. Please be sure to review all details on this form and return a signed copy of page 3.

How HIPAA applies to this clinic

1. Introduce yourself and your roles to the patient
2. Ask the patient if it would be ok to bring in the physician, physical therapist, pharmacist, etc.
3. Keep distance from other medical teams and farm workers while interviewing patients
4. When using the exam rooms (pop up tent) only student leading the encounter and the physician are allowed in. Otherwise, you must receive verbal confirmation from the patient that the entire team can enter the exam room.
5. Speak quietly while discussing a patient's condition with the physician in public areas (farm)
6. Do not use identifying information when discussing a case in public areas
7. Never discuss protected patient information with anyone not involved in their care unless the patient has given specific and documented permission

About Volunteering at the Clinic...



How to Prepare for the Clinic....

When dressing for the clinic, consider the following

- Inclement weather (rain gear, layers)
- Insects at dusk (bug spray)
- Non revealing clothing (absolutely NO low-cut shirts or high-cut shorts- you will be sent home from clinic if you arrive in non-appropriate attire)
- T-shirts and scrubs are ok
- If later in the season, bring headlamp and flashlight (if available)

Prior to the clinic be sure to

- Use the restroom (there are no public restrooms at farm)
- Eat dinner & drink water (can bring bottled water)
- Fill up your gas tank in case you are elected to drive

What to Expect as a Volunteer...

- Park on roadway. DO NOT USE VALET PARKING
- Meet at the UConn Health Center HOSPITAL Entrance at 4:30 sharp (or carpool from Storrs campus with your fellow classmates)
- Student coordinators will need your help loading supplies into vehicles
- Caravan will be organized (you may be asked to drive other volunteers)
- Caravan departs by 5:00 p.m. SHARP
- Most of the farms are north of Hartford, so plan to drive through rush hour traffic
- Estimated arrival at the farm location is 6:00 p.m.

After Arriving at the Farm....

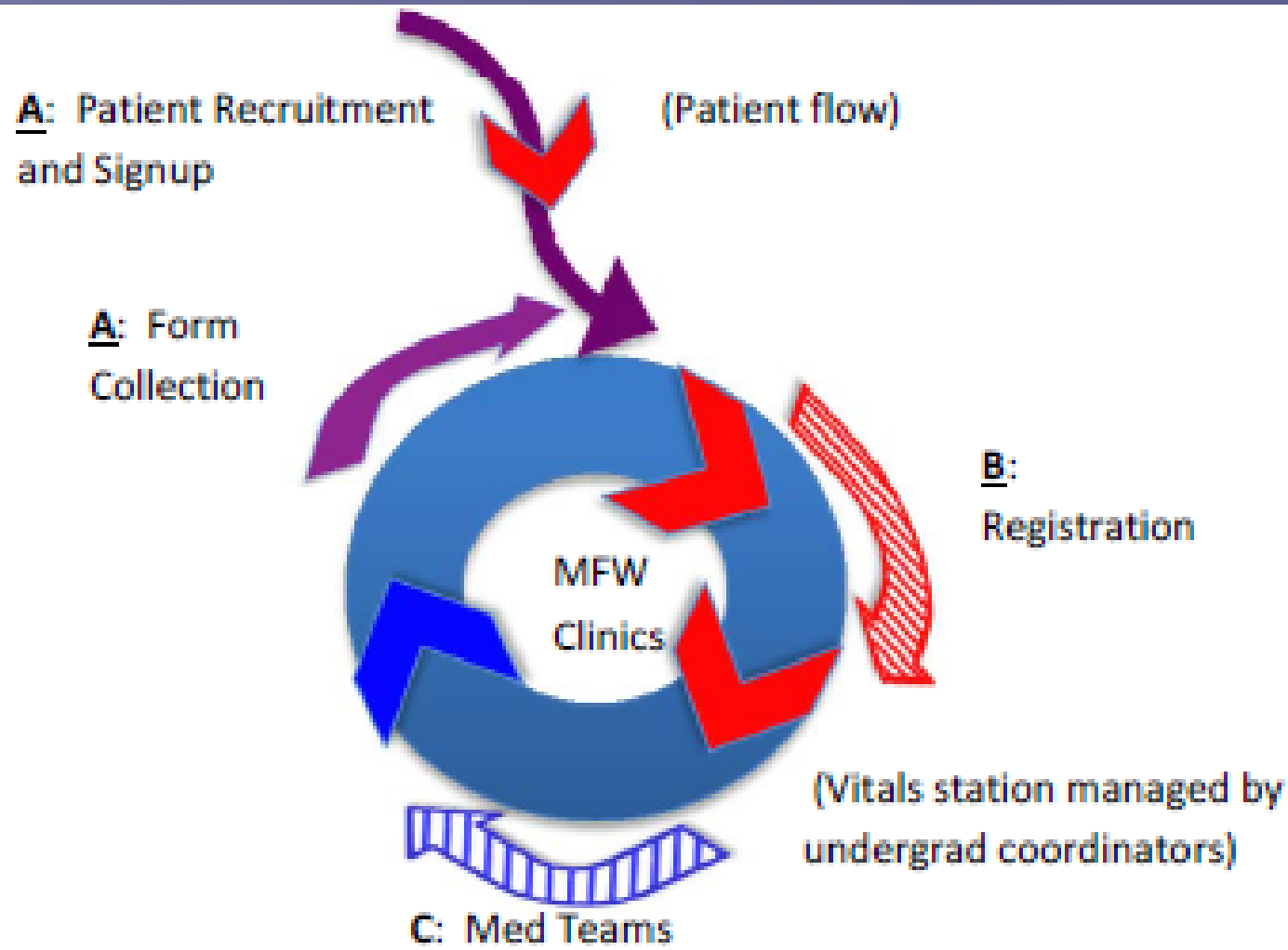
Help unload supplies from vehicles

Help set up registration, vitals, and pharmacy station as well as pop-up exam tents

Then, medical student coordinators will organize volunteers into teams



Clinic Patient Flow



During the Clinic

Undergraduate & High School Students...

1. Register patients and direct them to the medical or dental clinic based on their chief complaint
2. Take patients' blood pressure & blood glucose readings at "Vitals Station"
3. Occasionally, you might be asked to "shadow" the medical teams



During the Clinic

Members of the Medical Teams...

After patients have been registered and visited the “Vitals Station”, the patient will be assigned to a medical teams that will conduct the History and Physical (H&P).

The medical team is comprised of:

- TEAM LEAD: Either a PA student, 2nd, 3rd, 4th year Medical student or Resident
- pharmacy student
- medical interpreter
- Undergrad/High school student



The teams will present the H&P
to the precepting Physician and Pharmacist who
will determine the treatment plan for the patient



During the Clinic Pharmacy/Treatment Station

Pharmacy students and Pharmacists will distribute available medications and medical supplies to patients as part of the treatment plan

Pharmacy students will also rotate into a medical team once per night to satisfy curricular requirements



What Are the Common Health Issues for Farm Workers?

- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Pesticide-related conditions
- Traumatic injuries
- Respiratory conditions
- Infectious diseases
- Eye conditions
- Mental health disorders
- Dermatitis



Why so much paperwork?

Please pull out the training packets now

All volunteers must be familiar enough with these forms to easily complete at any point during the clinic

- The Connecticut River Valley Farm Worker Health Program (CRVFHP) is our “mother agency” that distributes federal voucher dollars for MFWs to UConn MFWC and our partnering Community Health Centers
- The UConn Migrant Farm Worker Clinic receives limited funding for medications, medical supplies and stipends from CRVFHP.
- We must complete the CRVFHP forms in order to be eligible for and receive this funding.

After the Clinic....

- We stay until the last patient has been seen so end time is variable
 - Neatly put supplies back in their storage units
 - Carpool/caravan to respective campus
 - Return supplies to CT AHEC office
 - IMPORTANT: Put items back in labeled area. If muddy, please brush off before returning supplies to office.
- CT AHEC is a working office,
not just a storage area...

CT AHEC thanks you for volunteering with the
UConn Migrant Farm Worker Clinic
and we hope you will continue service learning
projects with medically underserved populations as a
future health care professional!

