



Challenges of Climate Change for Workers and Communities Addressing Agriculture Workers' Exposure to Severe Environmental Conditions

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MIGRANT CLINICIANS NETWORK

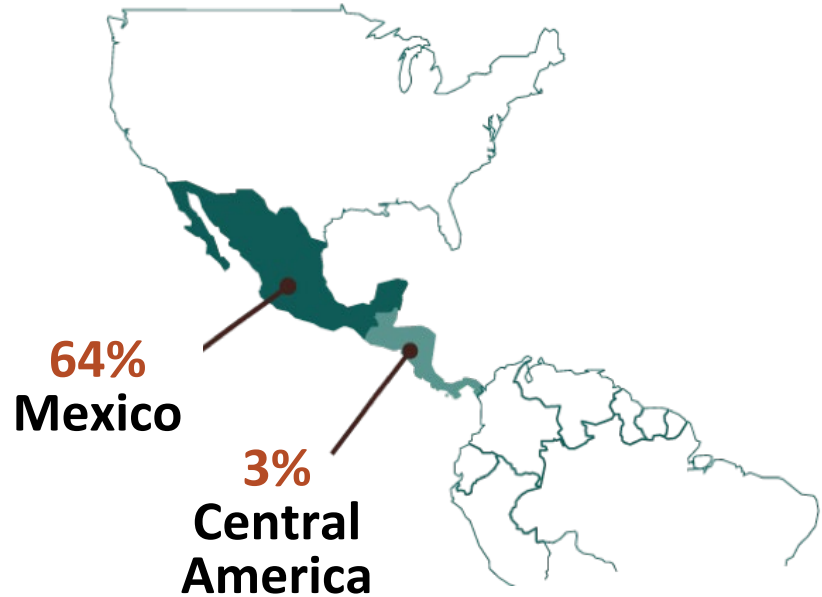


Agricultural Worker Demographics ¹



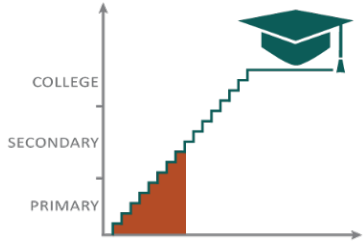
37% without
work authorization

68% foreign born



1. <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ETA/news/pdfs/NAWS%20Research%20Report%2014.pdf>

Agricultural Worker Demographics ¹



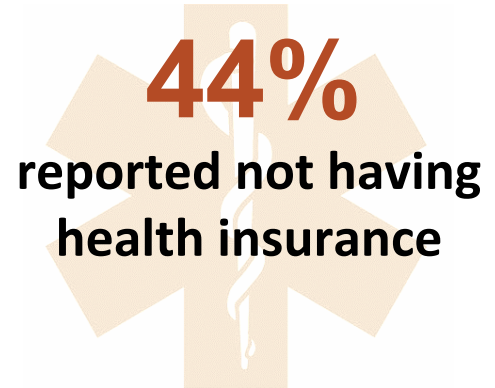
Foreign born workers, on average, have an **9th grade education**



Mean and median individual income range from **\$20,000 to \$29,999**



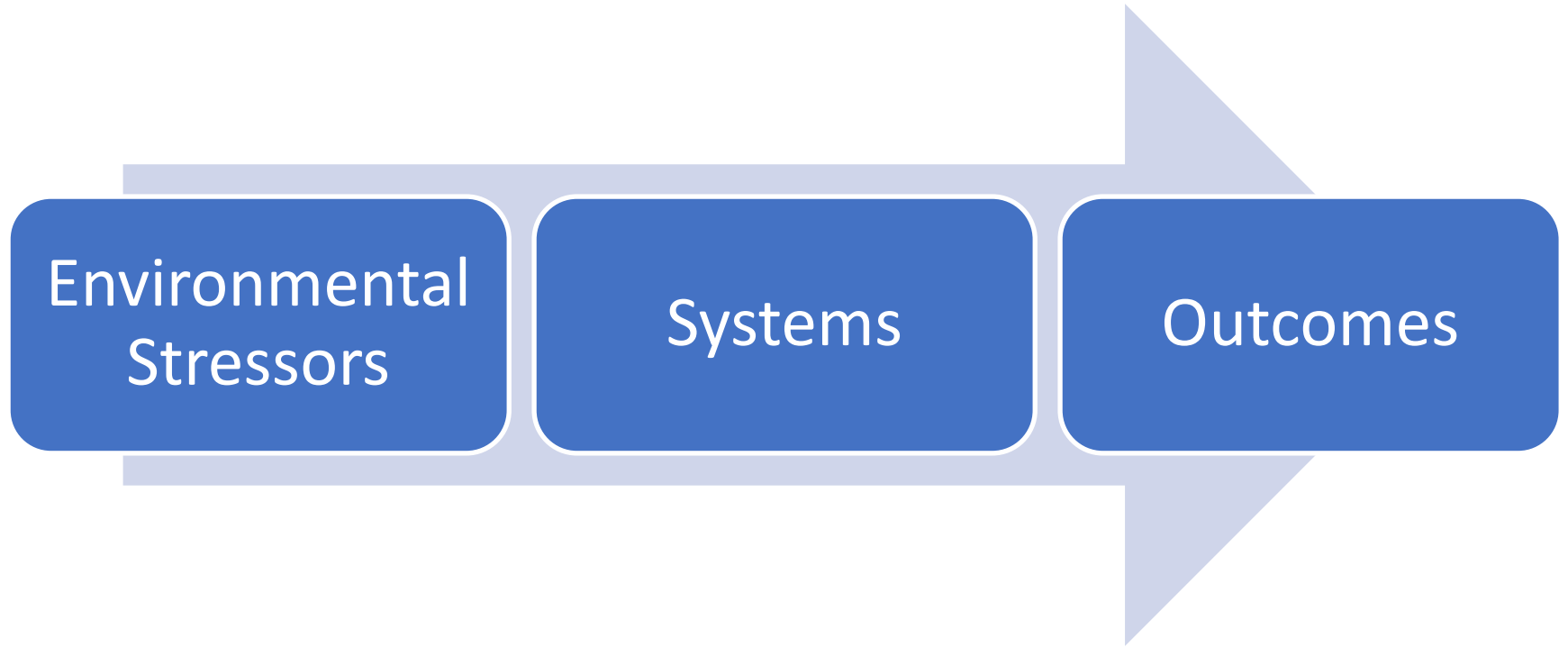
21% of agricultural worker families had total family incomes below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level

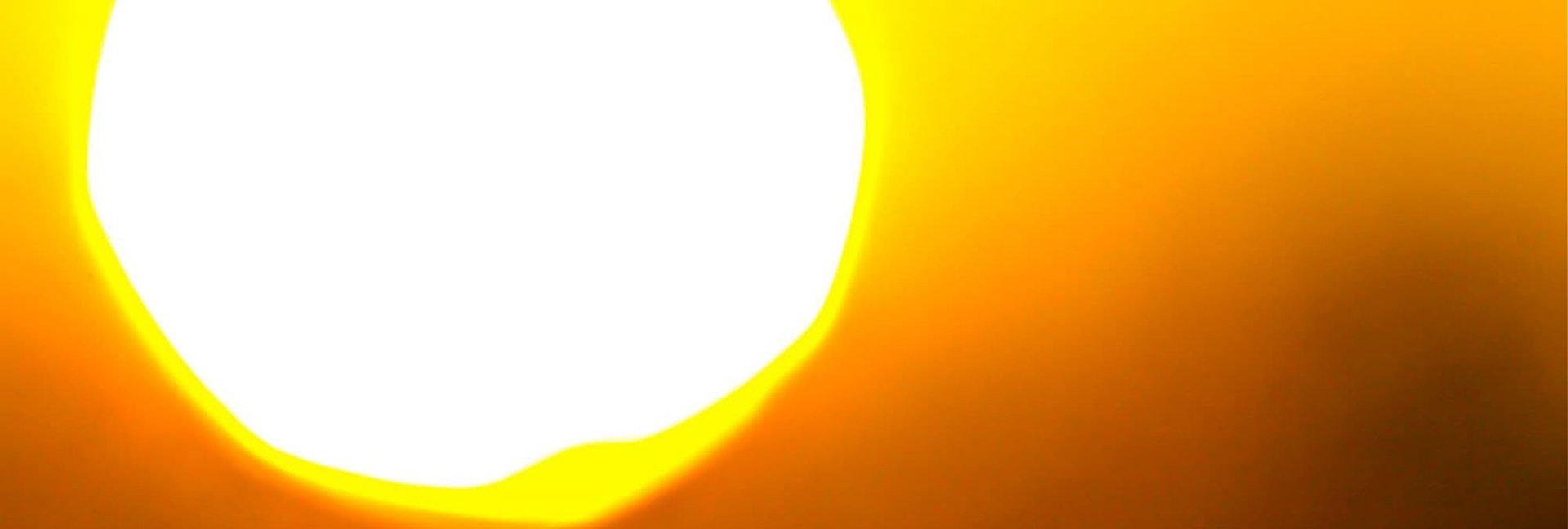




Climate Crisis

Agricultural Workers and Climate





Extreme heat kills more people than hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, and lightning combined. As climate change becomes more severe it is predicted that heat-related deaths will increase substantially.

Farmworkers are
20 times more
likely to die from
heat related illness
than other workers.





"It's hard work because the foreman constantly rushes us... Many workers have died in the fields due to dehydration or illness. I have seen men and women faint. I was picking chiles once and a woman worker told the foreman she didn't feel well. The foreman took her out of the field. Three days later it was 115 degrees out and another young woman, just 21 years old, fell ill... When we returned we saw the ambulance taking her away because she had fainted."

Marisol

[Stories from the Field](#), documented by David Bacon

Photo credit: David Bacon



"In addition to low pay, there are a lot of contractors out there that don't allow workers a break at the required time, or even a break at all. At work I want the contractor to consistently let us take breaks at our scheduled times of 9:00 a.m. and noon. There are many contractors that don't rehire us if we don't work the way they demand. They speed up the machine and we're expected to keep up."

Miguel

[Stories from the Field](#), documented by David Bacon

Wildfires



“There is nothing
heroic about what
we do. We work
out of necessity.”

-Erick

United Farmworkers Twitter



Natural Disasters



Extreme Hurricanes

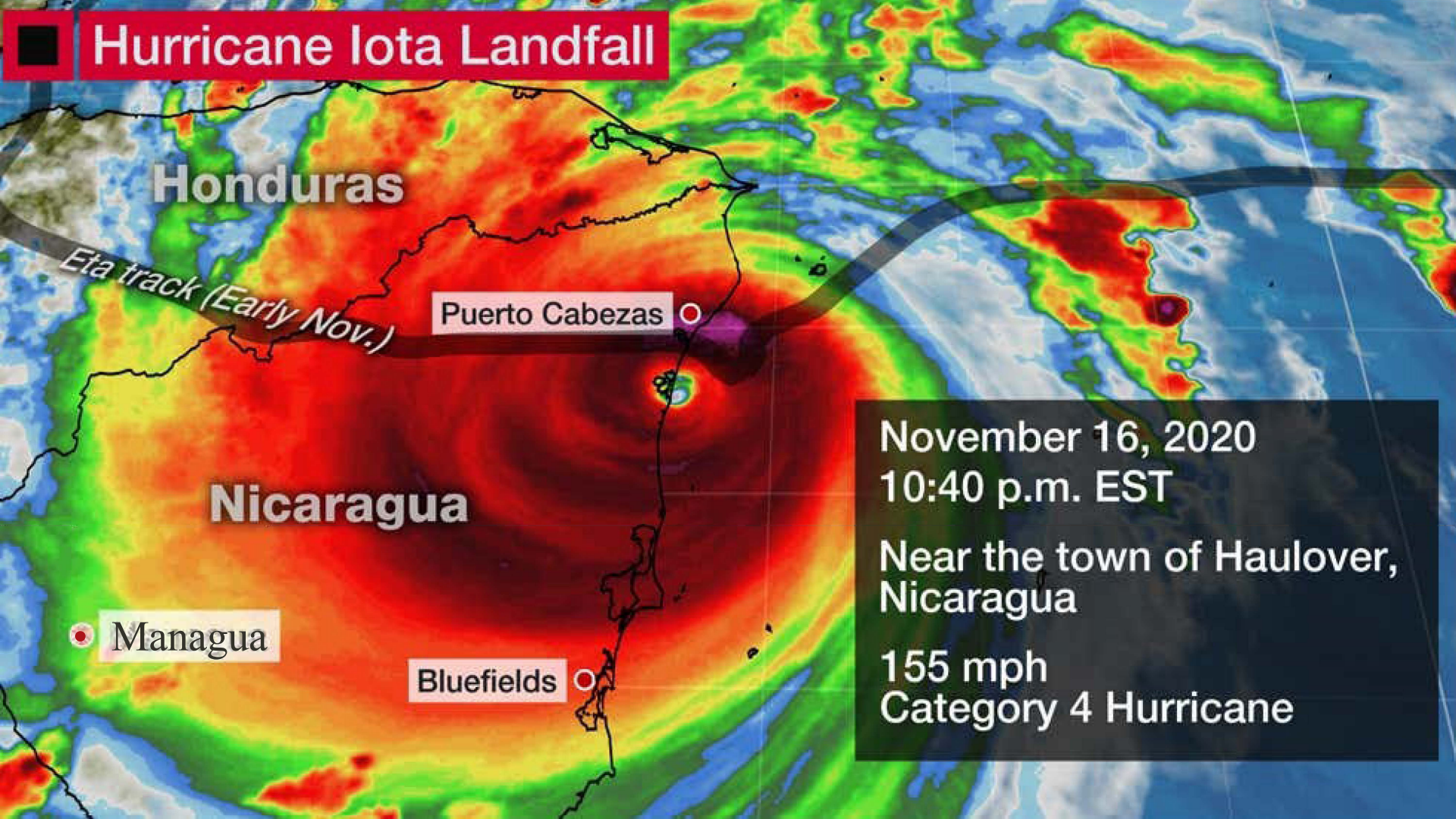
“I felt despair. I had food — but the roads were blocked,” she said.

“Open the way for me,” Feliciano Bras said, “because I can feed our people.”

-NBC News



Hurricane Iota Landfall



Honduras

Puerto Cabezas

Nicaragua

Managua

Bluefields

November 16, 2020
10:40 p.m. EST
Near the town of Haulover,
Nicaragua
155 mph
Category 4 Hurricane

Eta track (Early Nov.)



Hunger - Deepening food crisis contributing to migration

- Guatemala 6th highest chronic malnutrition rate in the world
- Acute cases double from 2019 to 2020
- Failed harvests linked to climate change
 - Natural disasters and floods



Who are the most vulnerable?

- Work outside
- Lower socio-economic status
- Children
- Pregnant women
- Chronic illness
- Migrant

Vulnerabilities

- Cultural and language differences
- Low-wage
- Inherent dangers and health risks of occupation
- Immigration status
- Migratory lifestyle
- Lack access to health care, insurance or financial resources
- Lack of regulatory protection



Heat Stress and Regulations

No National Heat Standard

States with a Heat Standard

California

Washington

Oregon

Minnesota
(indoor)

Maryland
2022

Worker protection

- Only a few states have heat stress standards
- There is no federal heat standard
- NIOSH first proposed details of a potential heat standard to federal OSHA in 1972
- In October 2021 OSHA began the process to create a heat standard covering indoor & outdoor workers





Asuncion Valdivia Heat Illness and Fatality Prevention Act 2021

Wildfires and Regulations

No National Standard

States with Wildfire Regulations

California


Oregon

Washington*

*Rule Making in Progress

A man wearing a straw hat and a blue plaid shirt is pouring onions from a white bucket into a grey plastic crate. The scene is outdoors, likely in a field or packing area, with other crates and workers visible in the background. The sky is overcast.

What does this mean
for trainers?

A woman in a blue sweater is presenting to a diverse group of people outdoors. She is holding a whiteboard on a yellow stand. The group consists of men and women of various ages and ethnicities, some wearing baseball caps and athletic wear. The background shows a field and a cloudy sky.

Culturally Appropriate Training Strategies



Popular Education

- “*popular*” = “of the people”
- Pedagogical theory of Paulo Freire
- Social Justice – Community Empowerment
- Participatory teaching/ learning strategies
- Learners’ prior knowledge and experiences
- Meaningful and relevant to learners

Reaching Adult Learners

- Learners' cultural backgrounds
- Language
- Literacy levels



Popular Education in Practice



Community Health Workers:
members of the community
receive and provide training to
other community members



Participatory Training:
practical, meaningful, and
relevant training for workers

Training Components



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