

Heat Illness Prevention in Farmworkers: Translation of Economic, Socio-cultural, and Physiological Factors into Effective Interventions

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Problem: Despite major campaigns to reduce heat-related illness (HRI) in agricultural workers, deaths and illnesses still occur at higher rates than in other industries where workers are exposed to hot environments.

Project Overview: This project engages farm organizations and workers in a collaborative effort to better understand and address the complexities of HRI prevention.

Progress to date: A prototype of a mobile phone app to reduce the risk of HRI will be evaluated by farmworker supervisors in November. Train-the-Trainer (ToT) workshops for supervisors concentrating on HRI prevention and hydration have been evaluated by key interviews of a sample of the 73 attendees in 2017. Components of the training have been tested with farmworkers and evaluated by focus groups.

Anticipated Project Outputs: Results will provide employers with information on the economic impact of HRI. The project will also include development of two mobile phone apps to help supervisors with primary prevention of HRI and evaluation of any in-field symptoms. A ToT manual with effective HRI prevention strategies and materials will also be published.

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