

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 mobile phone app designed to reduce the risk of HRI will soon be tested in the field by farmworker supervisors. Three Train-the-Trainer (ToT) workshops for supervisors concentrating on HRI prevention and hydration were held in 2018, reaching 53 participants. Evaluation from the participants was positive and the supervisors have gone on to train over 4,000 workers using the 'HRI Toolkit' provided during the ToT.

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 final ToT manual with effective HRI prevention strategies and materials will also be published.

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