

2024



YOLO COUNTY

Health & Human
Services Agency

Yolo County
Farmworker Assessment

Healthyyolo.org

By: Esmeralda Garza



PURPOSE & METHODOLOGY

2024

WHY A FARMWORKER ASSESSMENT?

- Farmworkers are the backbone to our leading industry.
- Our agricultural industry generated over \$901 million in 2023.

2024-2028 Strategic Plan



Thriving Residents



Flourishing Agriculture



Robust Economy

Mission: Making a difference in the lives of Yolo County residents by enhancing the quality of life of our community.

DOCUMENTATION



DATA COLLECTION (Sept. 2023-March 2024)



301
In-person Surveys



10 Focus Groups
(64 Farmworkers)



DEMOGRAPHICS

2024

SURVEY PARTICIPANTS BY RESIDENCE



96% live here permanently, most have been here for 30yrs, max 57yrs



92% born outside of the USA



Male:59% Female 41%



30% are likely Undocumented



AGE Mode:48 Median:47 Max:77



HOUSING & HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

2024



81% of Farmworkers Rent, Making them Subject to Rental Increases.



41% of Farmworkers have a Housing Cost that is 50% or more of their Monthly Income.



Financial Stress is the #1 Stressor, Rent & Utilities are a Significant Cause of that.



Farmworkers Need **Permanent** Affordable Housing they can Purchase.

“We need a law that limits rent increases.”

“We need low-income housing, housing that we can buy.”

“Put on your notes we need 1,000 low-income houses.”

“1,000 is not enough.”



HOUSING &

2024

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

*Top 3
Housing Needs:*

Permanent
Housing
63%

Rental
Assistance
22%

Utility
Assistance
9%



The Median Rent is
Higher in Yolo County
than Surrounding
Counties

“I know a lot of people who are leaving and moving to Fresno, Madera, because they can keep working in the fields over there and have better opportunity at buying a home of their own.”

“What is very stressful and essential is rent. We need help with rent, utilities, and food. Our work is seasonal, and we have to ask around to borrow money to have enough for rent or utilities. We have to arrange payment plans so we don't go without electricity. It's very stressful.”



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INCOME & SOCIOECONOMICS

2024

**MEDIAN ANNUAL
FARMWORKER INCOME**



\$20K

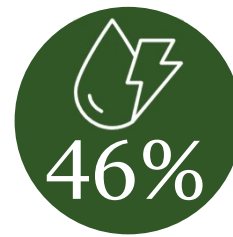
Extremely Low-Income



52% FOOD INSECURITY



**CAN'T PAY FOR A \$400
EMERGENCY EXPENSE**



**UTILITY PAYMENT
HARDSHIP**



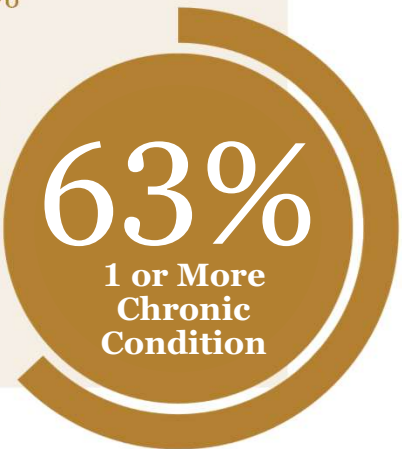
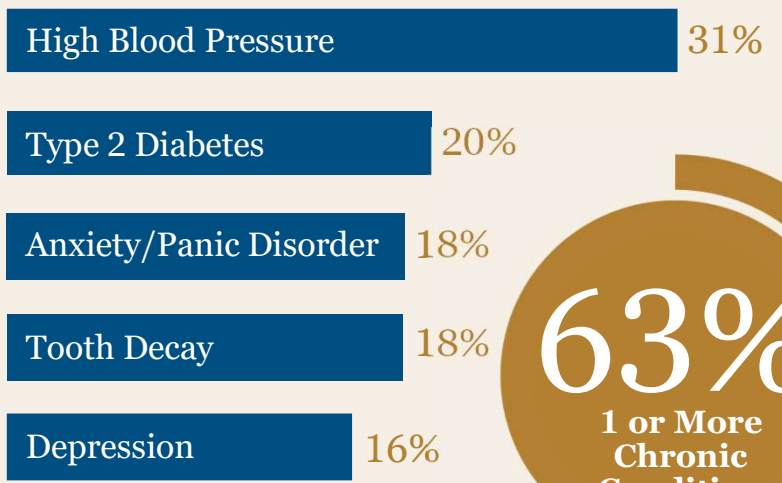
“The biggest stress right now is not earning enough for rent and food, financial stress.”



HEALTH & ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

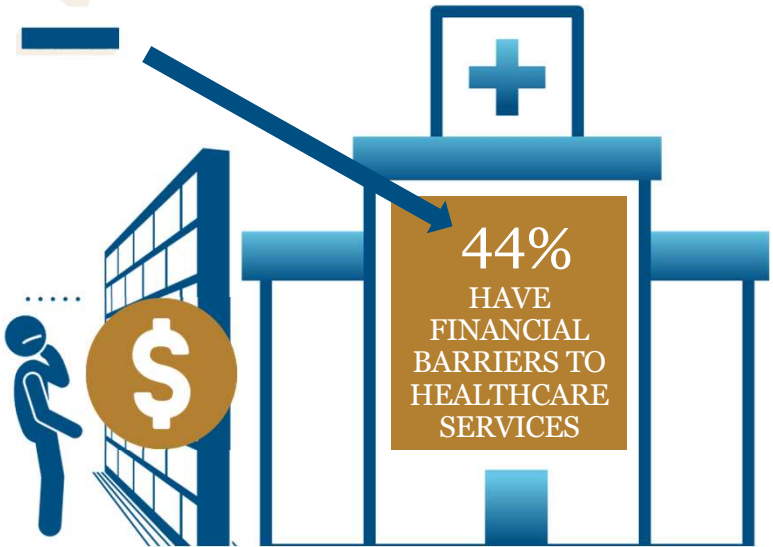
2024

TOP 5 CHRONIC CONDITIONS

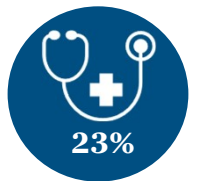


72% HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE

+ 70% Have regular checkups



Services Received In Mexico





ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSORS

2024

46%

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS

30% Heat Stress

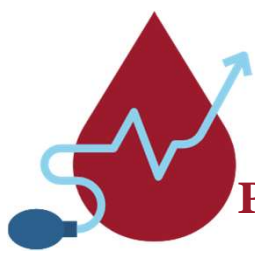
27% Heat Exhaustion

14% Heat Stroke

12% Heat Cramps

“It's horrible to be under the sun. I remember a time when I told the contractor that I wasn't feeling well because of the heat, and he replied- the temperature is not that high. It's the contractors who push us, sometimes the farmers don't even know it. And sometimes you get sick.”

Late 40's



1/3 High Blood Pressure



Risk of Heat-related Illnesses

SUMMARY

YOLO COUNTY
Health & Human
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Aging Workforce



Low Income Levels

Health Challenges



Environmental Conditions



“My job benefits my health because it feels good to walk out in the morning, breathe clean air and feel alive.”

“I can’t complain. I am passionate about my job. It motivates me and I enjoy it!”

“Working in the fields is beautiful. If we were paid better for our work, we wouldn’t face difficult financial situations.”

2024



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NEXT STEPS

Share findings with partners and agencies whose work impacts the farmworker community.

Identify opportunities to address the impacts of climate change on farmworkers that support Yolo County's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) goals.

Partner with the HHSA's Ag coordinator to enhance farmworker access to basic needs, such as food, medical care, rent and utility assistance.

Work with local leaders to collectively address root causes of disparities, such as access to permanent affordable housing.

[Healthyyolo.org](https://www.healthyyolo.org)