

Outline of CIRS Hired Farm Worker Health Survey

1. Hired Farm Worker Advisory Committee

Created by CIRS at the immediate outset of the project among local hired farm workers who are not affiliated, in any way, with farm labor unions, advocacy groups or service agencies. For convenience, workers were recruited from the Woodland and Winters areas, near Davis. Comprised of four women and four men, the committee held three formal meetings to review and discuss the CIRS plans for the survey. No decisions were made by CIRS staff about the survey, its contents or procedures, prior to the conclusion of the last of the advisory committee meetings. In addition, several members volunteered to be pilot subjects for the draft survey instruments. All eight members received cash honoraria in recognition of their contribution to the committee (\$250 each).

2. Survey Instruments

There are three instruments: main survey instrument, physical examination report, risk behavior instrument. The main survey instrument usually requires an hour and one-half to two hours to complete. The physical examination is scheduled by appointment and requires about twenty minutes to complete. The risk behavior instrument is administered in a private room at the clinic site immediately following completion of the physical examination and usually requires about twenty minutes to complete. Either CIRS staff or a clinic staff member, who is paid by CIRS for this purpose, administers this instrument. The risk behavior instrument covers topics such as tobacco use, alcohol use, sexual practices and domestic violence. Subjects return to the local CIRS survey office to receive the results of the clinical tests and to receive a \$30 cash honorarium in recognition of their time.

3. Subject selection methodology: agricultural regions

The survey is a community-based household survey. CIRS utilized a multi-stage, weighted sampling methodology to select the communities where the survey was to be conducted. Briefly, following definitions developed by the California Department of Employment Development, the state is divided into six agricultural regions. Average annual employment on crop and livestock farms (SIC Codes 01, 02, 071, 072, 073, 076) in each agricultural region is determined from published EDD data. Each region's share of total statewide farm employment is then determined. This is the Regional Weighting Factor. The target number of subjects in each agricultural region is then fixed from the total number of subjects desired for the entire survey and these calculated Regional Weighting Factors.

4. Subject selection methodology: communities

California has about 500 Medical Service Study Areas (MSSA), each containing an average of 12 Census Tracts. Within each agricultural region, Census of Population and Housing data (1990) were utilized to rank all MSSA in size order according to Census reports of the fraction of all employed persons who reported employment as hired farm workers. Thus, the highest ranked MSSA is the one with the highest share of employed persons who work on farms. These calculated fractions are the MSSA Weighting Factors. A random selection of one MSSA to represent each agricultural region was made using the weighted ranking of MSSAs in each region. Two exceptions to this procedure were made. First, Mecca was chosen for reasons of convenience to represent the Desert Agricultural Region. Second, two sites were chosen in the San Joaquin Valley, owing to its enormous geographic size, farm job diversity and exceptionally large number of hired farm workers. The second San Joaquin Valley site was chosen to be Firebaugh, again for reasons of convenience. Within each

MSSA, a weighted ranking was made of all communities contained therein. The Community Weighting Factors were calculated using the analogous procedure as was utilized for the selection of MSSA to represent each agricultural region. Specific community selections were made for each agricultural region from these ranked lists. Five communities were selected in the randomized procedure: Cutler (San Joaquin Valley), Vista (South Coast), Gonzales (Central Coast), Arbuckle (Sacramento Valley), Calistoga (North Coast). This procedure was modified for the South Coast and Central Coast to exclude certain large metropolitan areas (Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco) from the community tabulations.

5. Site Development

Each of the seven selected communities was visited by Don Villarejo and suitable CIRS staff for the purpose of developing relationships with local health providers and others who might have an interest in the survey. In addition, temporary local office space needed to be rented, temporary living quarters for field staff needed to be located, and suitable candidates for interviewer positions needed to be recruited. In four of the sites local clinics serving hired farm workers agreed to provide the required medical examination. Extensive negotiations over the fee that CIRS would be charged for this service led to several months of delay until final written agreements could be developed. It was discovered that three sites lacked clinic facilities that served hired farm workers. For two of these sites, travel arrangements were made to bring subjects to clinics in nearby communities. In the third community, CIRS had to set up a temporary clinic and hire an FNP to administer the clinical examination. In one additional site, it was discovered that the community is now a large suburban area, and although it has a farm worker clinic, transportation services would be needed to bring workers to the clinic. Computer equipment, cellular telephones, FAX machines, rented vehicles, filing cabinets, secure locations for cash used for honorarium payments and other necessary materials must be developed prior to beginning operations in each site.

6. Staff Development

The key position in each site is the Site Coordinator. Additionally, a Site Assistant is needed in each site. Both are full-time commitments and require extended periods living in the communities selected for study. Fortunately, CIRS was able to recruit Ann Souter to take this position for three sites (Mecca, Firebaugh, Cutler). Prof. Bonnie Bade, an experienced anthropologist and Project Co-Investigator, took an eighteen month Research Fellowship leave from her position at California State University, San Marcos to head up two sites (Vista, Gonzales). CIRS Research Associate Daniel Williams, relatively new to this type of work but with ten months of research work at CIRS completed, agreed to be overall Project Logistics Facilitator and also handled two sites (Arbuckle, Calistoga). CIRS also recruited a Graduate Student Research Fellow, Konane Martinez, through a competitive application process. CIRS paid CSU-SM for Bade's time, and paid Martinez a stipend for her participation. Martinez lived in Vista and then Gonzales for a total of eight months. Two other graduate student recruits, both interns with CIRS, assisted in the other field sites. CIRS Computer Systems Administrator Hanh Le was needed to visit each site to assure proper setup of equipment and to trouble shoot as needed.

7. Subject Selection

Comprehensive lists of dwellings where hired farm workers are believed to reside, together with maps showing the location of such dwellings, must be prepared to serve as the Subject Sample Frame. Essentially, every dwelling in the community must be listed, including

temporary quarters, such as tents, vehicles, or sheds. Some of these dwellings may be located in the countryside, far from towns. But all must be listed. Don Villarejo visited each site in advance to train site staff and personally participate in the mapping process. Lists of addresses are possibly available from the Census Bureau (TIGER files) but were not used by CIRS in California. A random selection is then made of dwellings where subjects are to be recruited. No substitutions are permitted. Interviewers are to go to selected dwellings only, and must determine if an eligible person resides, even temporarily, at the dwelling. Careful records of each visit to each selected dwelling must be maintained.