



What are our priorities?

The Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (WCAHS) is one of 11 agricultural education, research and prevention centers funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Based at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis), WCAHS has just completed one cooperative agreement period (2011-2016) and is entering a new period (2016-2021) with new research and outreach projects. The Center works with partners in industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia, and focuses on reducing adverse health outcomes among immigrant farmworkers. The Center's main priorities include:

- Promoting respiratory health
- Preventing heat illness
- Preventing toxic exposures
- Preventing musculoskeletal disorders

What do we do?

- Bring together multi-disciplinary experts to focus attention and research on health and safety in Western U.S. agriculture.
- Design safety equipment and improve work practices to reduce traumatic and cumulative trauma injuries.
- Develop innovative and effective outreach to improve health and safety among farmers, farmworkers and their families.
- Identify risk factors for acute and chronic illness due to toxic exposures so that effective prevention practices can be targeted to those individuals at highest risk.
- Create better communication through innovative and effective approaches, such as social media, focused talks and courses, advisory panels, and interactions in the agricultural community.

What have we accomplished?

- Achieved a return of \$10:1 on the total WCAHS funding from NIOSH by leveraging research findings to receive grants from additional sponsors interested in agricultural health and safety.
- Held 27 outreach events reaching over 1100 people in the agricultural community in 2015.
- Helped implement the Ag Center YouTube Channel in partnership with the other 10 NIOSH-funded centers.
- Disseminated fotonovelas on animal handling and respiratory health to train dairy workers.
- Developed safer ladder standards through theoretical modeling, laboratory testing and validation, and subsequent testing and validation in the field.
- Contributed to a multilevel transformation of California's heat illness prevention requirements by providing research data that informed revisions of a law. (California Code of Regulations, Title 8, § 3395).
- Helped to refine technique of using antibodies to rapidly detect exposure to pesticides with immunoassays that can be taken into the field.

What's next?

- Publish research findings on respiratory health, heat illness, pesticide exposure, and musculoskeletal disorders in farming.
- Develop new WCAHS projects on pesticide exposure and emerging issues, such as preventing sexual harassment of Hispanic female farmworkers.
- Disseminate evidence-based practices and equipment to stakeholders, including underrepresented and vulnerable subpopulations, such as California's farmworkers speaking indigenous languages.
- Support and encourage the development of creative research, disease and injury prevention/intervention programs, and education/translation projects.
- Create a WCAHS YouTube channel to disseminate regional research findings, specialist interviews, and safety trainings.
- Develop and enhance collaborations with state and government agencies, agricultural industry representatives, and community organizations.

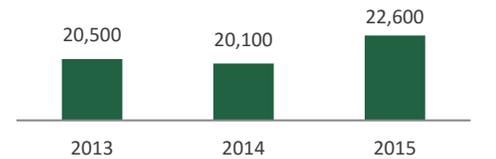
At-A-Glance

Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (WCAHS) is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary program based at UC Davis dedicated to the understanding and prevention of illness and injury in Western agriculture. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

WCAHS, located in Davis, CA, serves four western states



California, Arizona, Hawaii & Nevada
Agricultural, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting*
Injuries and Illnesses



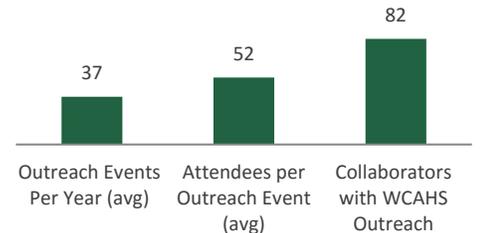
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
*NAICS Code=11

Selected California Farmworker Characteristics



Source: The National Agricultural Worker Survey, FY 2013-14
*Somewhat to Well

WCAHS Collaboration and Outreach



Source: WCAHS Program Records

