

Asking Workers About Their Work Day and Hygiene Practices to Better Determine Potential Pesticide Exposures: Preliminary Findings from the National Agricultural Workers Survey

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This presentation provided data on changes in the farmworker population from the National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS) and preliminary findings from the NAWS hygiene supplement, developed in conjunction with DOL and EPA and fielded in Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014. From 1999-2000 to 2013-2014, the Midwest Stream crop labor force aged an average of 10 years and became more settled. By 2014, there were fewer singles and the majority of workers lived with nuclear family. The share of the labor force that was born abroad decreased by more than one-third and the share made up of U.S. citizens nearly doubled. At the national level, findings from the hygiene supplement showed that crop workers' average work day was about 9 hours long. Nearly all workers bathed after the end of the work day and nearly all bathed at home; the average time between work and bathing was 1.7 hours. On the previous work day, almost all workers wore pants, three-quarters wore a long-sleeved shirt, and more than half wore a short-sleeved shirt (some wore both). On the day of the interview, approximately 1 in 10 workers re-wore an article of clothing that had not been washed after it was worn the previous work day and nearly 2 in 10 wore clean clothes but had worn unwashed clothing at some point in the past; in total, nearly 3 in 10 workers wore unwashed clothing at some point.