



# Yolo County FARMWORKER ASSESSMENT

YOLO COUNTY  
**Health & Human Services Agency**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Farmworkers are essential to Yolo County’s thriving agricultural industry. However, they are vulnerable to challenges posed by the physical demands and socioeconomic conditions that result from seasonal work and the region’s high cost of living. These challenges can lead to poor health and wellbeing outcomes.

Identifying and addressing needs of the farmworker community is embedded in Yolo County’s mission to enhance the quality of life for its community and is reflected in 3 Pillars of the Yolo County 2024- 2028 Strategic Plan: *Thriving Residents, Flourishing Agriculture, and a Robust Economy*. Braided into these 3 pillars is the importance of reducing disparities, providing access to resources for vulnerable populations, providing services to the agricultural industry, and enhancing economic resilience. To address the unique needs and disparities that Yolo County farmworkers are facing, we must first understand the conditions in which they work and live. The Public Health branch within Yolo County's Health & Human Services Agency (HHS), conducted an assessment to identify the social, economic, health, and environmental conditions affecting farmworkers. Between September 2023- March 2024, 301 farmworkers across Yolo County were surveyed in person, and 64 farmworkers participated in ten focus groups. Some key findings are listed below.

## KEY FINDINGS

<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b>	92% were born outside of the United States. The median age is 47 years; oldest participant is 77 years.
<b>HOUSING &amp; HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION</b>	96% live in the region permanently. 41% pay over half of their wages toward housing.
<b>INCOME &amp; SOCIOECONOMICS</b>	\$20K is the median annual income of a farmworker. 81% say they need better pay.
<b>HEALTH &amp; ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE</b>	72% have health insurance and 70% have regular check-ups. High blood pressure, diabetes, and stress are top health issues.
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSORS</b>	46% have experienced 1 or more heat-related illness at work. 78% reported receiving heat-related illness training at work.
<b>COMMUNITY NEEDS</b>	Permanent affordable housing they can own. Traffic safety like street lighting, traffic lights, and STOP signs.

## NEXT STEPS

The survey findings shed light on the challenges and bright spots in the lives of our farmworkers. By sharing these findings with the community and partners, HHS is hopeful that this information will spark new efforts to address some of the significant barriers farmworkers face to achieve better health outcomes. Together with city and county leaders, community partners and businesses, and the farmworker community we can help make Yolo County a place where all farmworkers for future generations can thrive.