

**MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKER**

**ENUMERATION PROFILES STUDY**

**LOUISIANA**

**FINAL**

prepared for the

**Migrant Health Program  
Bureau of Primary Health Care  
Health Resources and Services Administration**

by

**Alice C. Larson, Ph.D.  
Larson Assistance Services**

P.O. Box 801  
Vashon Island, WA 98070  
206-463-9000 (voice)  
206-463-9400 (fax)  
las@wolfenet.com (e-mail)

**September, 2000**

## **PREFACE**

The mission of the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC), Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services is to increase access to comprehensive primary and preventive health care and to improve the health status of under served and vulnerable populations. To achieve this mission the Migrant Health Program (MHP), BPHC provides support to organizations which offer technical assistance to or directly deliver primary health care services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers (MSFWs). In order to better plan, develop and evaluate health care service delivery and utilization, information is needed on the numbers and distribution of farmworkers at the national, state, and county levels. Moreover, the legislation which authorizes the Migrant Health Program, Section 330g of the Public Health Service Act, requires that priorities for assistance be assigned to areas where the greatest need exists. Therefore, the MHP periodically seeks to obtain updated information about MSFWs; where they are working and living and what crops are being harvested, in order to more appropriately target limited resources to areas of greatest MSFW need.

These MHP enumeration reports are some of the few sources offering MSFW estimates at the county level. The last time such data was published by the MHP was in March 1990 with "An ATLAS of State Profiles Which Estimate Number of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers and Members of Their Families."

This time with the Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a funding partner, the MHP awarded a grant to the National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc. (NCFH). The NCFH consequently contracted with Alice C. Larson, Ph.D. of Larson Assistance Services to research and develop state estimates.

In the previous publication "ATLAS of State Profiles" the counting of MSFWs was done on a state-by-state basis which depended on the available data resources within each state, then a consultant was used to validate each state's submission. For this publication, Dr. Larson, assisted by a team of consultants, used a systematic approach to estimate the number of farmworkers included under the MHP definition. This research included the determination of the number of workers needed for specific seasonal hand labor tasks, and the examination of state employment records, local sources of information and large-scale databases (i.e., the National Agricultural Workers Survey of the U.S. Department of Labor, the National Farmworker Database of the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs, the Uniform Data System of the Bureau of Primary Health Care and the Census of Agriculture of the Bureau of the Census and U.S. Department of Agriculture). A major part of this effort involved the review of draft estimates by local and national knowledgeable individuals.

In this document, the MHP presents currently updated MSFW information beginning with ten states: Arkansas, California, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas and Washington. The MHP hopes to continue these collaborative efforts with other federal agencies and organizations in order to update the remaining states impacted and benefiting by the labor of our Nation's farmworkers.

Readers may wish to address questions or comments concerning these state estimates directly to Alice C. Larson, Ph.D., P.O. Box 801, Vashon Island, WA 98070 or via e-mail to [las@wolfenet.com](mailto:las@wolfenet.com). It is our hope and expectation that all federal, state, local public and private entities providing services to MSFWs will use this state and county specific enumeration data to plan, develop and implement improved services to our Nation's farmworkers.

The Migrant Health Program, BPHC gratefully acknowledges the efforts of the many groups across the nation who have made this publication possible. Our thanks not only to those who directly reviewed and commented on the estimates, but to those who participated and assisted along the way.

Adolfo Mata, Chief  
Migrant Health Program  
Division of Community and Migrant Health  
Bureau of Primary Health Care  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
Department of Health & Human Services

