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Mexican Migrant Farmworkers in the United States: An Annotated Bibliography

By

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A Publication of the Center for Latino Policy Research
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I. MEXICAN IMMIGRATION AND MIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

[General]


The essays included in this volume explore different aspects of immigration from Mexico to the United States, covering topics such as Mexican migration and U.S. policy, human rights of undocumented aliens, the bracero program, the effects of guestworker programs on the labor market, Mexican push factors propelling Mexicans to migrate to the United States, and alternatives to undocumented migration.


This book is a broad survey about Mexican nationals in the Midwest before the Great Depression. Drawing on both published works and archival materials, Garcia considers the many factors that affected the process of immigration as well as the development of immigrant communities in the Midwest. Some of the topics covered are housing and labor, women and work, Mexican mutual aid societies, and the social and cultural life of Mexicans and the Great Depression.


This study seeks to understand how migration and social change shape and are shaped by people and practices in specific historical moments interacting dialectically with broader social, economic, and political structures. This research addresses questions of broad relevance to people’s daily lives, such as gender, race, ethnicity, age, class, sexuality, marital status, and position within the family, as crucial markers in processes of social differentiation and in the social reproduction of gender-racial-class hierarchies in which both men and women are situated.


This study analyzes how the intersection of micro and macro forces shapes the migration and settlement of Mexican undocumented immigrant women and men in a Northern California community. Chapter 1 discusses the literature on migration and adaptation, gender and inequality, and analyses of settlement. Subsequent chapters provide a historical overview of immigrant families in the United States, an introduction to the study population, an exploration of how gender relations in families and social networks shape diverse migration patterns for men and women, and an examination of how immigrant women and men in the United States reconstitute gender relations. It is proposed that although men play an important part in initiating migration, women play an important part in solidifying settlement.


This book offers a rich selection of essays dealing with the immigration question in the United States. Some of the issues covered are the social organization of Mexican migration to the United States, U.S. immigration and the welfare state, foreign investment and migration, and the effect of immigrants on the employment opportunities of U.S. workers.


The contributors to this volume represent a diversity of academic disciplines and perspectives, including art history and criticism, cultural studies, film analysis, folklore, cultural history, literary criticism, and political science. Methodologically, the chapters follow a clear trend in recent immigration studies. Some of the topics covered are political practice and cultural response to the internationalization of Mexican labor, undocumented crossings, and narrative films of Mexican immigration.

This article examines the structure and development of migrant networks using ethnographic and survey data collected in four Mexican communities between November 1982 and February 1983 and in California in August and September of 1983. A random sample of two hundred households was gathered in each of two rural and two urban Mexican communities located in the states of Michoacán and Jalisco. These data were supplemented by nonrandom samples of sixty households that had settled permanently in California. In both the United States and Mexico, Mexican anthropologists who also conducted extensive ethnographic fieldwork administered the surveys.


This ethnographic history attempts to describe how, in the rural community of Santa Paula, social segregation evolved into a system of interethnic social division. The main goals of the author for reconstructing the social history of Santa Paula’s Mexican-origin community were to advance historiographic information about people of Mexican descent in the United States and to examine how past social injustices have influenced the perceptions of self-worth among inhabitants of this community. The segmentation of the farm labor market, school segregation, racism, and movements to unionize farm labor are also discussed.


This narrative chronicles the transnational/transborder history of the Mexican community in Los Angeles, California. The topics discussed include the great migration from Mexico to Southern California, Mexicans and the politics of the labor market, and intergenerational differences within Mexican immigrant families. The last chapter of the book treats the conflicts between Mexicans and Americans by emphasizing how Mexicans in the United States felt about the Mexican Revolution, about labor organization, and about how to deal with American politics and institutions.


This book focuses on the process of migration and on the diversity of today’s immigrants, their social origins and contexts of exit as well as their adaptation experiences and contexts of incorporation. The first chapters cover the diversity of America’s immigrants, their moving patterns (e.g., settlement and spatial mobility), occupational and economic adaptation, and citizenship and political participation. Other topics covered are mental health and acculturation issues, language and education, generational differences, and immigration and public policy. Theories of immigration and immigration controls are also discussed. Although this book addresses a diverse immigrant group, issues pertinent to Mexican immigrants are also covered.


This book explores U.S. Texas border culture. As an outgrowth of the Borderlife Research Project conducted at the University of Texas, this study incorporates the voices of several hundred Rio Grande Valley residents as well as the findings of sociological surveys to describe the lives of migrant farmworkers, colonia residents, undocumented domestic workers, maquila workers, and Mexican street children. Each chapter is based on exploratory and survey interviews conducted from 1988 to 1996. Some of the chapters explore the lives of migrant farmworkers, housing conditions along the border, and race relations between Mexican Americans and permanent Anglo residents, blacks, and Mexican immigrants.

This book offers a comprehensive exploration of Mexican immigration to the United States. Contributors focus on aspects of the recent immigration experiences that are new and that differ from earlier waves of migration. The authors rely on various methodologies, from sophisticated statistical analyses of large data sets to complex psychoanalytic interpretations of intrapsychic processes. The topics covered include recent structural changes in the Mexican economy and their effects on migration patterns, U.S. immigration policies and trends, U.S. demand for Mexican immigrant labor, and the education of Mexican children.


This brief government booklet outlines the history of waves of migration to the United States and the laws enacted to curtail them.

**Mexican Migration to the United States: Push and Pull Factors**


This article summarizes the views of Mexican scholars on the structural determinants of illegal migration to the United States. The author claims that import substitution industrialization has led to a declining market for labor in Mexico, and that the growth of demand for goods typical of modernized economies has also led to diversion of resources away from the essential needs of the poor. These developments in Mexico serve as push factors stimulating migration flows to the United States. Alba proposes that a contrast between peripheral and central economies is also crucial for understanding this particular phenomenon.


In this chapter, Arizpe argues that the Mexican rural exodus and Mexican migration to the United States must be examined as two distinct movements. Arizpe's data show that most of the migrants created by the prevailing conditions in Mexican rural areas settled within Mexico, and that only specific types of migrants were attracted to the United States. According to Arizpe, the distinction between the general rural outflow in Mexico and Mexican migration to the United States is crucial for understanding the characteristics of U.S.-bound migrants. The patterns, reasons, and rhythms of the movement otherwise become buried under broad generalizations that seek simple explanations.


The case studies in this chapter focus on the profiles of migrants, their motives for emigrating, their insertion into the U.S. labor market, the characteristics of their communities of origin, and migrant remittances and their disposition. The study features a regional analysis of the state of Jalisco, where there is a strong "push" factor that impels people to migrate to the United States. The sampling is representative of the population of the area, and the units for analysis were the family and the individual, particularly the migrant. Key informants from the communities where the surveys were taken were also interviewed.

In this article, the situation of undocumented Mexican immigrants in the United States is placed in historical perspective. The author holds that the American state permitted illegal immigration as a necessary means for meeting its commitments to various sectors of capital and labor. The historical dialectics of the process that made illegal immigration the consequence of the strength of United States labor are also outlined.


This book addresses the reasons (both economic and historical) compelling Mexicans from a particular region in the State of Jalisco to migrate north to the United States. In Jalisco, the author tells us, empirical evidence pointed to the fact that employment opportunities revolved around the agricultural sector. This sector in turn could offer only unreliable employment. Basically, the agricultural sector could not provide the jobs or the earnings needed to sustain the workers and their families. The only option for many Jalisco residents was to migrate north to the United States. Castillo Giron also emphasizes the importance of remittances for the sustenance and survival of sending communities.


This chapter focuses on the ways in which the U.S. Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) has affected traditional labor-exporting communities in Mexico. Specifically, it examines how IRCA has altered perceptions of the U.S. labor market, the propensity to migrate, settlement patterns in the United States, and the economies of migrant families and their home communities. Of particular importance to residents of rural sending communities in Mexico was the Special Agricultural Workers (SAW) program, which offered legalization to those claiming at least ninety days of employment as farmworkers in the United States in the twelve-month period ending May 1, 1986.


Cornelius explores the effects of emigration to the United States on sending communities. Special attention is given to the role of remittances in consumption patterns and their effect on agriculture (according to this study, only a handful of persons used their U.S. earnings to become agricultural entrepreneurs) and employment (employment-multiplying effects of small-business investments by migrants in the research communities are claimed to have been modest). Cornelius concludes that sending communities have not escaped the economic distortions frequently associated with large-scale labor emigration. These include the consumption of nonessential durables; inflated land, housing, and food prices; income polarization, culminating in the emergence of absentee landlord and vacationer elites; low levels of investment in productive activities because income earned in the United States goes mostly to finance personal consumption and housing construction; declining agricultural production; and labor shortages as local wages become increasingly unacceptable to returning migrants.


The authors of this chapter remind us that emigration from Mexico has always had a political component that is as important as the economic one (e.g., the push of the Mexican Revolution and the Cristero Rebellion). They also point out that there are Mexican government policy stances that implicitly encourage undocumented migration, such as those supporting the rights of undocumented migrants in the United States or providing protection services on the border for returning migrants. This implicit encouragement is particularly significant in the absence of any official words or actions discouraging undocumented migration.

This book forms part of a research project intended to address the following themes: (1) reasons compelling people to emigrate from their countries of origin and to enter clandestinely into the United States and (2) viable cooperative development measures aimed at reducing the economic incentive to emigrate. The authors of the chapters in this volume examine a number of regional and sectoral developments in Mexico and assess how they are related to undocumented migration to the United States. The underlying premise driving their research is that greater regional and sectoral development constitutes the best antidote to undocumented migration.


According to Igartua, the latest migration flows of Mexicans into the United States must be examined from a point of view that takes into account the historical factors that have shaped and propelled them. The migratory dynamic from Mexico to the United States, then, can only be understood if historical processes are acknowledged. Igartua goes on to talk about these historical processes, focusing mainly on the bracero program and its effect on the migration flows of Mexicans to the United States.


Martin looks at the effect of the pattern of agricultural development in Mexico and the United States on Mexico–U.S. migration. He argues that Mexican rural migration to the United States is currently being driven by an agricultural revolution in Mexico that is destroying the traditional pattern of the ejido-based peasant agriculture. Small-scale farmers, he argues, are likely to leave agricultural work because of competitive pressures deriving from a set of policy measures: the removal of price supports for agricultural products, the reduction of tariff protection, and the Agrarian Law of 1992, which permits the sale of ejidal, or communal lands, and halts the process of land distribution.


According to the author, massive Mexican migration today reflects the prior development of social networks that support and sustain it. Massey examines the structure and development of these networks using ethnographic and survey data collected in four Mexican communities. Two rural and two urban communities in Mexico were sampled. A nonrandom sample of sixty households that settled permanently in California was also studied. Massey found that, during the bracero period, the foundation for modern network migration was established.


The Mexico–U.S. Binational Study on Migration was authorized to study the issues related to the migration of Mexican nationals to the United States. This study was conducted by ten scholars from each country, who reviewed existing research, generated new data and analyses, and undertook site visits and consulted with migrants and local residents to gain a joint understanding of the issues raised in this study. The study found, among many other things, that the demand of U.S. employers and the economic motivation of Mexican migrants is sustained by network and supply factors. It also found that policymaking has been episodic in nature; in other words, that the political responses to immigration by both Mexico and the United States are greatly influenced by the changing economic conditions of both countries.

This study seeks solutions to Mexico's international migration problem in agricultural export markets. It begins with the assumption that the primary cause for migration to the United States is rural underdevelopment, manifested chiefly by a lack of employment and low income levels. This underdevelopment fuels labor expulsion and drives workers to seek employment alternatives in urban areas or outside the country. According to the authors, one solution to the problems that beset the rural areas may be in the structure of production. They claim that an increase in agricultural exports would help alleviate the problems that cause Mexico's international migration problem.


According to Sassen, the major immigrant-sending countries are among the leading recipients of the jobs lost in the United States. Sassen discusses the major reasons for the existence of this peculiar pattern. She draws some of her analysis and conclusions from studies on the relation between U.S. investment in Mexico and Mexican immigration. One of the points made is that the development of commercial agriculture has directly displaced small farmers, who are left without any means of subsistence. This displacement of labor, which happens first internally (in Mexico, from the rural to the urban economy), often results in migration flows to other countries (to the United States). For example, uprooted Mexican sharecroppers or subsistence farmers become wage laborers in U.S. agriculture.


In this chapter Simon explains the reasons for the exodus of Mixtecs from Oaxaca, Mexico, to the rich agricultural fields of the United States by taking into consideration the reason most often stated by Mixtecs: “porque la tierra ya no da [because the land no longer gives].” Simon details the reasons for the lack of agricultural production in Oaxaca by exploring the history of soil erosion, changes in agricultural techniques, and the “green revolution.” Simon concludes that the exodus from Mexico and the migration north to the United States has been mainly propelled by ecological factors.


This article develops an integrated empirical model of trade in vegetables and illegal immigration. The authors suggest that deteriorating economic conditions in Mexico push workers to the United States. The authors also find that tightening conditions in U.S. labor markets and increased real prices of vegetables pull workers to the United States. The article shows that immigration and trade policies influence the number of apprehensions of undocumented workers.

**U.S.-Mexican Relations**


The author of this book demonstrates that the U.S. immigration and drug enforcement policies and practices in the southwestern border region have coincided with many key features of low-intensity conflict. The study contains findings that draw extensively from government documents, investigative reports from the mainstream and alternative press, interviews with federal law-enforcement personnel in south Texas, and reports from human-rights advocacy organizations active in the border region.

This book is organized in four parts with two appendixes. Part 1, a conceptual introduction, situates the California-Mexico connection in comparative and theoretical terms. Part 2 explores the demographic, economic, political, and social changes in Mexico and how they affect California. Part 3 focuses on the presence of Mexico in California, its effect on the economy, society, education, health, labor, and politics. Part 4 provides recommendations for strengthening the positive effects of the California-Mexico interconnection. Visual data are presented in the appendixes.


This book explores the social structures in place in California in the 1800s and traces the roots of racism toward Mexicans in Southern California. According to Carey McWilliams, the easy conquest of California bred in Americans contempt for all things Mexican. Poor Mexicans have always worked on California’s farms and ranches. They have been discriminated against by both Mexicans of Spanish descent and by Americans. This book is interesting because it puts the situation of Mexican workers in California in a wider historical context.


This book explores the relationship between Mexico and the United States. The authors attempt to examine the history of both countries in order to show how they are interdependent. Issues such as immigration, migrant labor, and international policies are discussed.


In this collaborative effort, Castañeda and Pastor analyze the complex relationship between their countries, Mexico and the United States, and discuss the differences that separate Americans from Mexicans. These differences in perspective, politics, and realities are important because they explain how these two countries interact with each other as they become increasingly interdependent. The issues are many (governments, foreign policy, economic integration, immigration, the border, drugs and money, and crossing cultures); however, all are addressed from both the Mexican and the U.S. perspective.
II. MEXICAN MIGRANT FARMWORKERS AND LABORERS

General


Communities in rural California are becoming increasingly Latino. Using a quantitative database of 288 rural communities, together with qualitative data collected in the San Joaquin Valley, the authors examine the processes through which this ethnic transformation is occurring. Most studies have focused on Latino immigration as the cause of changing ethnic composition. This study finds that non-Latino population growth, as well as Latino population growth, accounts for the relative differences in changing community ethnicity. Most important for explaining migration among Latinos are housing costs and year-round job availability. Among white non-Latinos, ethnic conflict and perceptions of community deterioration better explain migration decisions. As a result of these changes, places in rural California are becoming increasingly economically and ethnically differentiated.


Borjas addresses the questions surrounding the effect of immigrants on employment opportunities of native Americans. He, first of all, asserts that there are two opposing views about how immigrants affect the labor market in the United States. Immigrants either have a harmful effect (take jobs away from natives) or they cause very little displacement of natives. From here, Borjas begins to clarify the nature of the problem by analyzing empirical research. He concludes that the data show that immigrants do not have a major effect either on the earnings or on the employment levels of the natives in the U.S. labor market.


This report is a compilation of proceedings, written statements, and other materials on the conditions of migrant farm labor in the United States submitted to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Presented are an overview of farm labor economics, information on the demographics and living conditions of migrants, and information on relevant government-operated programs servicing migrant farmworkers.


Before beginning to talk about the migrant farm labor problem, it is necessary to define what this problem is. The authors of this book conclude that the migrant farm labor problem is an economic problem that for a very long time has been dealt with using legal solutions. They claim that it is indeed an economic problem but also one of colonization and of injustice and that it is a problem that makes apparent the power of interest groups who are able to sway policies and laws to further their interests. The authors feel that what is needed is to first look at the historical conditions that precipitate the emergence of migratory labor, the importation of labor from Mexico and Latin America, and the processes that perpetuate the problem.


This bibliography relates to alien labor and employment in agriculture; the primary focus is on the H-2 nonimmigrant program. Other legal foreign worker programs employing Caribbean workers and items pertaining to alien labor (legal and illegal) in general are referenced. Basic literature on farm labor markets, immigration, and labor migration issues is also included. Only a small number of references are annotated.
In this book Gonzalez explores the emergence, maturity, and decline of the Southern California citrus industry. His analysis is intended as a historical sketch of one village form, the citrus worker village. Gonzalez chooses as a case study of fourteen citrus worker settlements in Orange County, a major agricultural region in Southern California. The information gathered by the author includes interviews with forty-two individuals associated in one way or another with the citrus industry in Southern California, autobiographies, local histories, reports of religious groups, and informal discussions.


The Okies were economic migrants during the Great Depression. Like the Mexican migrants, they were employed in California agriculture and were discriminated against because they were poor, uneducated, and different. Unlike Mexicans, however, Okies were Americans and as such enjoyed certain advantages, such as white privilege. This book offers a very good point of comparison for those interested in the treatment of Mexican migrants.


Chapter 1 gives an overview of the development of agricultural labor from 1865 to the present. Chapters 2–8 are studies of the farm labor supply communities and the demand crop regions of the north. Chapter 9 includes descriptions of the farm labor force, the factors affecting continued labor supply, and the ways in which farmworker housing is linked to labor market dynamics. In the conclusion, chapter 10, the book presents theories of low-income labor processes, immigration, and resource use and the implications of the growing use of subcontracting for power, resistance, and poverty in U.S. agricultural workplaces.


This book argues that the American agrarian myth facilitated the ascendance of California's "factories in the fields," justifying an increase in production while ignoring the conditions of workers in the fields. Guerin-Gonzales outlines the history of Mexican farmworkers in the United States, paying special attention to the dynamics and consequences of the voluntary/involuntary repatriation and deportation of Mexicans by the federal government during the Great Depression and to unionization efforts throughout the period. Part 1 examines myths and ideals encoded in the American Dream and how the images of farming as a small family affair and of farmworkers as migrant "birds of passage" contributed to the creation of an economy and society radically different from both the pastoral ideal of family farmers and the American Dream of freedom through economic opportunity. Part 2 analyzes the racialization of the American Dream, focusing on Mexican immigrant working men and the ways racial segregation limited their economic opportunities. Part 3 examines the social, economic, and political struggles over national identity after Mexican removal (repatriation). This last section explores the different strategies employed by Mexican repatriates and Mexican-American exiles in Mexico to survive their expulsion from the United States.


In this book, the author compiles the history of the relationship among Atlantic Coast farmworkers, the growers for whom they labored, and the state. At the heart of this narrative is the issue of labor supply so prominent on the West Coast. The study itself begins with an examination of the technological and social trends leading to the rise of "truck farming" on the north eastern shore, which supplied rapidly growing urban centers with perishable fruits, vegetables, and berries. Crops needing intensive manual labor during peak season created a demand for labor that was eventually filled by African-American migrants from the South and eventually foreign migrants (including Mexicans). This book does an excellent job of diagnosing the failures of American agricultural labor policies and hinting at the positive results that might have followed had farmworkers been granted the same rights as the rest of U.S. workers.

The essays in this collection treat the experiences of the Mexican and Mexican-American working classes from their cultural beginnings and the rise of industrialism in Mexico to the late twentieth century in the United States. Some of the chapters cover issues pertinent to Mexican working classes as well as Mexicans working in the United States. Special attention is given to groups such as the Mexican working class in Texas, copper miners in Arizona, Mexican immigrants in Chicago, and transnational workers in California.


Agricultural workers who work in the United States legally earn 15 percent more on average than do undocumented workers. These earnings differentials vary substantially with demographic characteristics. For example, much of the weekly earnings loss from not having legal status can be offset by language ability. Most of the earnings differential is due to wage differences rather than differences in number of hours worked.


This book argues that it makes more sense to reform the farm labor market itself than to develop special programs to reduce poverty among farmworkers. The authors suggest ways to better coordinate existing programs so as to maximize their effectiveness.


This book was as influential as The Grapes of Wrath in bringing to the minds of many Americans the plight of the migrant farmworker. McWilliams designed it as a chapter in the hidden social history of California. It was also designed to focus attention “on certain unpleasant realities” in the California fields. Some of the unpleasant realities it highlights are the Wheatland riot, the wartime production increase (World War I) and the postwar decade of economic depression, the great strikes, and the rise of farm fascism. It also offers a chapter on the drive for unionization.


This book elaborates on the relationship between the produced form and the representation of the California landscape and on labor’s role in establishing this relationship. Mitchell provides a historical narrative and an elaboration of his “labor theory of landscape.” The Wheatland riot, the role of the California Commission on Immigration and Housing (CCIH) in agriculture, and the ideologies of race and gender behind the conceptualization and treatment of farm labor are discussed.


This article summarizes the characteristics of persons who migrated to work in the United States and returned to Mexico based on a nationwide survey in Mexico in December 1978 and January 1979. Nearly half (47 percent) of the 1,068 return migrants in the sample of 62,500 Mexican households were employed in agriculture. Approximately 29 percent had been apprehended in the United States in 1978. This article includes other demographic and economic summaries.


Rural housing settlements called colonias are home to many impoverished Rio Grande Valley residents, including migrant farmworkers. This chapter explores the lives of colonia residents. Richardson discusses the potential strengths of colonias as well as the problems of colonia life, including poor infrastructure, health hazards (e.g., lack of adequate sanitation, pesticide poisoning, and contaminated water), unemployment, and crime.

South Texas is home to the largest population of migrant farmworkers in the United States. In this chapter, the authors employ the data from the Borderlife Research Project to address two questions: What is it like to be a migrant farmworker? How have life conditions and treatment of farmworkers changed over the past fifty years? Using incidents related by migrant farmworkers during interviews, the authors recount the lives of farmworkers as they leave home, take to the road, find work and housing, work in the fields, interact in the towns and schools, and return to the Rio Grande Valley.


Rothenberg's book presents the world of migrant farmworkers as a complex social and economic system in which many lives become intertwined. The book in itself is a collection of voices. The author traveled throughout the United States and Mexico and conducted a total of 250 interviews in labor camps, farm offices, homeless shelters, living rooms, yards, and fields. The end product is a fascinating portrayal of the farm labor system. Farmworkers, growers, farm labor contractors, political lobbyists, government investigators, union organizers, immigrant smugglers (coyotes), and professionals serving farmworkers and their families are given the opportunity to speak about their lives, their thoughts, and their work as it pertains to issues and problems related to the farm labor system in the United States. Although this book considers the lives of all farmworkers in the United States, the focus is on Mexican farmworkers.


This article reviews the nature of international labor migration today and the economic and political rationale for its occurrence. It suggests that, although developed economies will continue to attract and exchange highly skilled labor, they will have little need for mass immigration by those with lower skill levels. In contrast, poorer countries with rapid population growth and low living standards will encourage emigration, except by the highly skilled. One consequence will be more illegal immigration, which we can already see in the case of Mexican migration into the United States. Push-pull factors, labor demand and supply, political environments and responses, and regional networks are explored.


This book examines the socioeconomic links among farm employment, immigration, and welfare use, not only within California's Central Valley, but also along the state's central coast and in its southern regions. Using U.S. Census data and information collected from extensive community-level site visits, the authors find that immigration, largely from rural Mexico, is changing the face of rural California, increasing population, poverty levels, and demand for public services. The authors caution that upward mobility among these immigrant workers may be limited and that recent legislative changes are reducing public resources available to integrate newcomers just as the number of immigrants is increasing. In 1995 and 1996 two conferences on immigration and the changing face of rural California were held in Asilomar and Riverside, California. This book draws largely from the research papers presented at those conferences.


Since 1988, the National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS) has surveyed, every three years, a random sample of the nation's crop farmworkers. This report provides information on the characteristics and work patterns of U.S. farmworkers performing seasonal agricultural services (SAS) during fiscal year 1990 (October 1, 1989 through September 30, 1990). The information presented was gathered from more than two thousand personal interviews with SAS workers.

This report presents public information on the characteristics and work patterns of seasonal agricultural workers in California. The data in this report were collected through 1,844 interviews of farmworkers in California by the National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS) during the federal fiscal years 1990 and 1991 (October–September). The NAWS was commissioned by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) as part of its response to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA). IRCA required the secretaries of agriculture and labor to determine annually if a shortage of seasonal agricultural service workers was to be expected in 1990–93 and to monitor seasonal agricultural wages and working conditions.


Since 1988, the NAWS has surveyed, every three years, a random sample of the nation’s crop farmworkers. The interviewed farmworkers reveal detailed information about their basic demographics, legal status, education, family size and household composition, wages and working conditions in agricultural jobs, and participation in the nonagricultural U.S. labor force. This information allows for an in-depth look at current farmworkers and for the tracing of changes occurring since 1988.


This book focuses primarily on the class struggle between capitalist employers and seasonal farmworkers. Nodín Valdes outlines the history of Latino agricultural workers in the upper Midwest from the time of their entry into the region during World War I until the 1970s. This study attempts to illustrate how employers in agriculture engaged in ongoing experimentation in technology, crops, and relations with their field workers. Agricultural corporations, according to Valdes continually altered the work process and replaced established workers with new workers in an effort to maintain more effective control.


This book explores the lives of cotton pickers in the United States by recounting the great strike of 1933 in the cotton fields. Weber offers an illuminating analysis of this strike, the consequences of the New Deal for growers and pickers, the arrival of migrant whites, and the attempts at unionization.


Emilio Zamora blends sociological analysis with a rich historical narrative based on extensive archival research in this study of Mexican working-class identity and political culture in Texas. Zamora recounts how Mexicans responded to poverty, social discrimination, and inequality both in the workplace and in the union halls. The study also discusses the integration of Mexico’s industrial and cotton farming workforce with the seasonal migrant labor market in Texas, showing the unique interrelationship between the two nations and their economies. Within this binational context, Zamora reveals how anti-immigration campaigns in Texas result in higher rates of unemployment in Mexico and how worker’s interests in land reform issues and socialist ideologies reflected the hard times they endured on both sides of the border.

*The Agricultural Labor Market*

Farm labor contractors (FLCs) have become increasingly important in California's agricultural production. This study was commissioned by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) for the primary purpose of increasing our understanding of the roles, business practices, and concerns of contractors. The surveys for this study were conducted in Fresno County, San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties, the Desert region (mainly Imperial County), the South Coast region, and the Central Coast region.


The California Employment Development Department (EDD) commissioned this study in order to gain a better understanding of the raisin industry's labor market and to learn if its operations have changed in response to IRCA. Surveys of growers, farmworkers, and industry experts were conducted by the Center for Agricultural Business researchers in Fresno County. The study found that there was no indication that raisin growers have reduced their raisin acreage due to labor shortages or that IRCA has had any significant effect on prevailing wages or personnel practices in the industry.


In this project Fuller addresses the conditions of workers in American agriculture. Part 1 provides a historical overview of the farm labor system from 1850 to 1964. Part 2 is concerned with farm management relations in the years 1955 to 1964. This section looks at labor relations in agriculture, economics of migrant labor, and the new era of agriculture (post-bracero program). The last section explores farm labor policies, including farm labor law and national labor law and constraints on California farm labor unionization.


This study was designed to explore the occupational mobility of current and former agricultural workers in two California labor markets and the preliminary effects of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) on such mobility. The researchers explore the differences in job and worker characteristics among farm and nonfarm workers and attempt to identify what characteristics are associated with leaving farm work and in what specific ways off-farm jobs might be more attractive to workers than farm jobs.


This report presents information on the extent and prevalence of child labor in agriculture. It also reports on the legislative protections available to children working in agriculture, the enforcement of these protections, and how the federal educational assistance programs address the needs of children in migrant and seasonal agriculture. According to the report, close to 116,000 15- to 17-year-olds worked as hired agricultural workers in 1997. Of all children working in agriculture, between 400 and 600 suffer work-related injuries each year. It was also found that although the departments of education and labor have many programs that aim to improve educational opportunities for disadvantaged school-aged children, few of these programs specifically target migrant and seasonal agricultural child workers, and most collect no information on the number of such children served.


Empirical studies of the employment effects of the minimum wage in agriculture are reviewed, and the results are presented of an attempt to extend that research by employing a new model to test the robustness of the minimum wage effect. Data indicated that a 10 percent increase in the agricultural minimum wage causes an employment decline of about 3 percent.

Weaving together the epic story of two centuries of Mexican labor north of the Rio Bravo, this volume covers in great depth the evolution of a number of salient themes: agricultural labor, industrial labor, the impact of the Mexican War, racism, unionization, and labor conflict. Gomez-Quiñones appropriately highlights the importance played by ethnic discrimination in defining both the Anglo perceptions of Mexican immigrants and the restricted economic and social opportunities available to them in the United States.


Based on in-depth interviews and extensive observations in the counties of Glenn, Solano, Napa, and Contra Costa in Northern California, this volume explores the daily lives and problems of Mexican and Mexican-American agricultural workers in their respective communities. The author draws on his discussions with community leaders, his participation in community organization meetings, and his volunteer work in community programs to present an overall picture of this unique farmworker society and the ways in which individuals adapt to it.


The purpose of this supplement to the report is to provide background information on California’s farm labor market. The topics covered include the importance of labor-intensive fruit and vegetable agriculture to the state’s economy; trends in the employment of farmworkers; how farmworkers find jobs; what they earn; and what they do after they leave farm jobs.


This chapter discusses some of the social problems affecting the Mexican community of Santa Paula, California. The author focuses on the injustice and the economic and political dilemmas confronting the Mexican people who continued to work in the citrus industry during the aftermath of the bracero program and until 1976.


Based on fieldwork conducted in 1981 in Ventura County, California, this study helps to explain the relationship between the relative abundance of Mexican nationals willing to pick citrus crops and the institutional forms that U.S. unions, employers, and government have created to deal with Mexican workers in California agriculture. Through personal interviews, documentary research, and economic analysis, the authors examine competition by Mexican migrants for jobs in California. This competition involves virtually no U.S.-born workers. In fact, new waves of young, economically and legally vulnerable Mexican migrants have displaced older, more secure Mexicans who had won higher wages, improved benefits, and increased job security.


California agriculture relies heavily on a seasonal workforce, which has for the past thirty years meant Latino migrant and immigrant workers willing to work for low wages under poor working conditions. The major themes of this paper are the formation of Mexican and Chicano enclaves and the agricultural forces that are contributing to this settlement of migrant farmworkers. Five individual farmworker case studies are included to offer a glimpse into the lives of migrants and to show, within the context of a changing agricultural environment, how they relate to the development of enclaves and settlement.

This study estimates the likelihood of nonagricultural workers’ joining the agricultural workforce in response to an increase in the agricultural wage. The responsiveness of labor supply to wage changes is important because the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) is supposed to restrict the supply of ineligible immigrant labor in the United States. Many farmers and legislators predicted that if IRCA reduced the immigrant agricultural labor force, then wage increases, significant crop losses, or mass noncompliance with the law would result. This study indicates that inducing nonagricultural workers to switch to agriculture may not be as costly as was feared.


The President’s Commission on Migratory Labor was established by Harry Truman in 1950 to direct an inquiry into the social, economic, health, and educational conditions among migratory workers, both alien and domestic. The commission was encouraged to write a report on its findings and to make necessary recommendations. All executive departments were authorized and directed to cooperate with the commission in its work and to furnish the commission with information and assistance.


This paper develops an empirical test of hysteresis as an explanation for observed shortages in agricultural labor markets, despite the existence of significant unemployment in many agricultural counties. The results found by this study contradict the General Accounting Office report (1997) that states that an agricultural labor shortage is highly unlikely. The author recommends that shortages in the agricultural sector might be alleviated by creating conditions that reduce the relative variability of agricultural wages or by reducing the sunk costs of moving between farm and nonfarm sectors.


This study focuses on the choice California growers make to use farm labor contractors’ services under current labor market conditions. The analysis includes a study of how perceived labor costs changed in response to IRCA, including how the risks of being fined for not complying with the law affected employers’ hiring practices. The study demonstrates that the use of FLCs in agriculture is a form of risk management for labor activities among growers.


Recent debates over the role of immigration in the U.S. economy specifically call into question the contribution of recent immigrants to rural economies. This paper presents a quantitative and qualitative analysis of Washington farm labor market trends, with special attention on the role of migration worker turnover and potential shortage-induced wage increases. The analysis focuses on how individual producer characteristics, including commodity, region, and employment decisions, affect farm labor markets’ stability and trends. This in turn illustrates the dependency of various producers, regions, and commodity groups on the migrant farmworkers likely to be affected by future immigration policy and programs.


During the 1950s and 1960s, when there was large-scale rural to urban migration, agricultural economists developed models of this interaction between farm and nonfarm labor markets. The most prominent models were those of Tyrniewicz and Schuh (TS), who concluded that rising expected nonfarm income pulled the farm workforce into nonfarm jobs. This report updates the TS model and concludes that the nonfarm sector no longer exerts substantial
influence on the farm labor market. The researchers find that the supply of hired farmworkers is not significantly affected by rising expected nonfarm wages and the supply of farm operators is not diminished by higher expected nonfarm incomes and negative farm incomes.


This report describes the lives of migrant farmworkers as they labor to produce crops in the United States. The findings are based on the U.S. Department of Labor's National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS). This history captures every geographic move as well as the details of every work, out-of-country, and out-of-work period.


Farm labor contractors (FLCs) are intermediaries who earn money by matching seasonal workers with seasonal jobs in agriculture. The federal government began to regulate the activities of FLCs in 1965; one of the federal regulations prohibited FLCs from hiring illegal or undocumented workers. This report explores the limited effectiveness of federal regulations and employer sanctions against FLCs and offers alternative measures, including increasing the penalties for hiring undocumented workers and the number of inspections in areas and crops that are known to be employing undocumented workers.


California produces almost three-fourths of the nation's strawberries. Growers are of Japanese, Mexican, and European descent; the vast majority of workers are Mexican. In the mid-1960s, the political context of production shifted dramatically: border policies were redesigned, protective laws were extended to seasonal farmworkers, and the most powerful agricultural labor union to arise in the nation's history galvanized California's central coast. These changes shifted the balance of class power in the industry, engendering an apparently regressive reconfiguring of work. In her book, Wells explores the ways in which political forces are transforming the organization and social relations of work in California's strawberry industry.

**The Bracero Program**


Craig examines the bracero program and its aftermath from a unique perspective. In his book, the interplay between agricultural and labor groups, as well as between the Mexican and U.S. governments, are examined within the context of immigration policy and the agricultural labor market.


Elac traces the history of Mexican farmworkers in the California fields. In his brief account he offers useful statistics on the migration of Mexicans to California. Special attention is given to the bracero program.


This book is based on a report regarding compliance with the contractual, legal, and civil rights of Mexican agricultural contract labor in the United States. It was the intent of the report, a four-month-long field survey conducted by Galarza, to call public attention to the problems affecting Mexican farmworkers in the United States. Some of the problems addressed are civil rights, housing, wages, food, transportation, insurance, and worker representation.

Galarza traces the history of Mexican agricultural workers in the United States up to the end of the bracero program. This book is a classic piece that focuses on the plight of farmworkers as it illustrates the different dynamics that create the unjust conditions under which they exist. Galarza covers the historical, political, social, and economic aspects of seasonal migration and the braceros.


The end of World War II signaled the end of the bracero program in Northwest agriculture. Mechanization, cited in other studies as a reason for discontinuing importation of contracted workers, had little effect in this region. In fact, strikes and administrative changes in the bracero program forced employers to reconsider the ongoing use of Mexican workers and replace them with the less troublesome Chicano workers. This book explores the profound influence these braceros had on the Pacific Northwest and also details the legal, economic, and social adversities they faced.


This chapter traces the history of the bracero program and includes a brief history of Mexican migration to the United States prior to the arrival of braceros. García y Griego highlights some economic aspects of the program and the process of negotiation between the United States and Mexico and includes a useful chronology of the Mexican Contract-Labor Program.


According to Igartua, the latest migration flows of Mexicans into the United States must be examined from a point of view that takes into account the historical factors that have shaped them. The migratory dynamic from Mexico to the United States, then, can be understood only if historical processes are acknowledged. Igartua goes on to talk about these historical processes, focusing mainly on the bracero program and its effect on the migration flows of Mexicans to the United States.


This article analyzes the effect of the termination of the bracero program on U.S. agricultural labor markets. The authors focus on wage trend equations for the United States and selected southwestern states, using a dummy variable to distinguish the post-bracero period. The authors find no statistically significant difference between bracero-period and post-bracero-period wages.


Recent changes enacted by IRCA have created the potential for two large temporary worker programs, one constructed from the existing H-2 program and the other an outgrowth of IRCA’s amnesty provisions. Prior experience with guestworker programs in Europe and the United States suggests, however, that temporary labor migration ultimately will engender a flow of immigration substantially in excess of the number of temporary visas originally allocated. In this paper, the author outlines a theoretical rationale to explain this observation and test it using microdata gathered from former participants in the bracero program.

This article tests the stoop labor hypothesis, which postulates that farmworkers do not respond to wage incentives, for two California crops: melons and strawberries. The econometric results strongly reject the stoop labor hypothesis and suggest an upward-sloping supply curve for harvest labor. Following the termination of the bracero program, total employment, acreage, and output declined, whereas prices, wages, and domestic employment increased.

**H-2A Agricultural Guestworker Program**


The objective of this chapter is to review the experience of the United States with various past and present foreign worker programs, to outline some of the proposals for new foreign worker programs, and to make known why foreign worker programs are the wrong prescription for the nation's problem of illegal immigration. The bracero program, the border commuters, and the H-2 worker program are discussed as case examples.


This report presents information on the likelihood of a widespread agricultural labor shortage and its effect on the need for nonimmigrant guestworkers. It also reports on the H-2A program’s ability to meet the needs of agricultural employers while protecting domestic and foreign agricultural workers, both at present and if a significant number of nonimmigrant guestworkers is needed in the future. The most recent H-2A programs (Special Agricultural Workers and Replenishment Agricultural Workers) were created under IRCA in 1986. Under these guestworker programs, employers are able to recruit foreign workers and bring them into the country on temporary visas. The purpose of the H-2A program is to ensure agricultural employers an adequate supply of labor while also protecting the jobs, wages, and working conditions of domestic farmworkers.


This document is the testimony of Carlotta C. Joyner, director of Education and Employment Issues, Health, Education, and Human Services Division of the General Accounting Office, before the Subcommittee on Immigration, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate. In her testimony she discusses the ability of the H-2A agricultural guestworker program to meet the needs of the agricultural industry both today and in the event of sudden widespread farm labor shortages. She also discusses the likelihood of a widespread agricultural labor shortage, the effect it would have on the need for nonimmigrant guestworkers, and the H-2A program’s ability to meet the needs of agricultural workers both at present and in the future. Ms. Joyner concludes that the likelihood of a sudden widespread farm labor shortage requiring the importation of large numbers of foreign workers is minimal. Her testimony is based on a report submitted to the U.S. Congress in December 1997.


This chapter focuses on temporary foreign workers (TFWs), who are treated as one stream in the whole flow of migration, which includes temporary and permanent, legal and illegal, economically active and nonworking persons.
Reubens summarizes the dimensions of immigration (legal and illegal) from Mexico, reviews the forces underlying and sustaining the emigration of Mexicans and their inflows into the United States, and indicates the major effects (benefits and costs) of migration, primarily as they pertain to the U.S. labor force and social system. Also outlined are the range of alternative approaches for dealing with migration (e.g., direct restriction of aliens, development of native substitutes for aliens, enlargement of immigrant quotas, and a new TFW program). Reubens sketches the U.S. experience with TFW programs, specifically the "H-2 visa" operation.
III. IMMIGRATION POLICIES AFFECTING MEXICAN MIGRANT FARMWORKERS

General


This book considers the circumstances and key issues that influence the viability and desirability of policy choices available to the United States and Mexico as the two countries wrestle with the issues stemming from the continuing flow of Mexican migrants (legal and illegal) to the United States. The authors of the chapters in this volume analyze the migration flows and weigh the advantages and disadvantages of the various policy options that have been proposed to influence the flows.


In the nearly four centuries since the English first settled in Jamestown, immigration has been of concern to the makers of public policy. Americans have sought to stimulate and regulate the flow of newcomers in a variety of ways. U.S. immigration policy has been a sensitive barometer of both the achievements and the problems of national development, for it has been quick to respond to changing economic, political, social, and diplomatic circumstances. Five distinct periods of American immigration policy are discussed, including those that have greatly affected the flow of Mexican farm laborers into the United States.


The objective of this chapter is to review the experience of the United States with various past and present foreign worker programs, to outline some of the proposals for new foreign worker programs, and to make known why foreign worker programs are the wrong prescription for the nation’s problem of illegal immigration. The bracero program, the border commuters, and the H-2 worker program are discussed.


This chapter discusses how the United States has treated Mexico in its past immigration policies. The authors describe the evolution of U.S. immigration policy from early in this century, concentrating on those unresolved policy tensions that have peculiar consequences for Mexico.


Illegal immigration has been a front-page issue for several decades. Legomsky explores employer sanctions as policies curtailing immigration. His analysis includes basic background information on undocumented aliens and employer sanctions in particular and an examination of the benefits and costs of such sanctions to employers and government.


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U.S. policy, as Weintraub points out, has had repeated turnabouts, alternatingly welcoming and rejecting Mexican immigrants depending on the U.S. economy's need for labor. The Mexican authorities have, in turn, used the U.S. demand for Mexican labor to define Mexican migration to the United States as essentially a market issue of supply and demand that involves the Mexican government only insofar as it is concerned with abuse of the rights of Mexican citizens abroad.

**Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA)**


This collection of essays focuses on the effects of IRCA on the flow of undocumented immigrants to the United States. The chapters in this volume rely on a variety of data sources and methods to address the issue of undocumented immigration to the United States in the post-IRCA era. Most of the information provided is about Mexican migration, a focus that is warranted because the majority of undocumented immigrants have come from Mexico. The studies cited are generally consistent in suggesting a decrease in the flow of illegal migrants across the U.S.-Mexico border, notwithstanding the difficulties of detecting an effect.


According to Calavita, U.S. immigration policies have been characterized by a pronounced gap between their purported intent and their practical effect. What this article proposes is that a number of tensions, or paired oppositions, explain the pattern of apparent failure of immigration policies to achieve their purported intent and re-create what is often referred to as the immigration problem. These paired oppositions are existing employer and worker interests on the issue of immigration; the structure and composition of labor force needs that are clearly economic but that have political implications; and liberal democratic principles that are at odds with the police functions necessary to control and regulate immigration and refugee flows. In this article, Calavita discusses IRCA and the immigration act of 1990 in relation to these paired oppositions, gaps, and contradictions.


This chapter focuses on the ways in which the U.S. Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) has affected traditional labor-exporting communities in Mexico. Specifically, it examines how IRCA has altered perceptions of the U.S. labor market, the propensity to migrate, settlement patterns in the United States, and the economies of migrant families and their home communities. Of particular importance to residents of rural sending communities in Mexico was the Special Agricultural Workers (SAW) program, which offered legalization to those claiming at least ninety days of employment as farmworkers in the United States in the twelve-month period ending May 1, 1986.

This study documents the changes that have occurred since the implementation of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA). To document transitions in the industry, the Center for Immigration Studies investigated the farming operations of specific perishable commodities in various counties across the United States. Results from these case studies were then analyzed in a national context.


Agriculture was a major stumbling block to immigration reform, largely because Congress was unwilling to choose between the competing goals of protecting U.S. workers and admitting supplemental immigrant farmworkers. A description of the Special Agricultural Workers (SAW) program in California and the hypothetical calculations required to determine whether Replenishment Agricultural Workers (RAWs) will be admitted to the United States are presented.


According to Martin, California agriculture provides a case study of how an industry can remain dependent on an outside-the-community labor force for decades by persuading the federal government to leave immigration doors ajar so that foreign workers willing to accommodate themselves to seasonal farm work are available. In this article, Martin discusses the seasonal farm labor "problem" by exploring the U.S. agricultural labor market and the effects of immigration reform policies (IRCA) on the earnings and working conditions of farmworkers.

Rosenberg, H. R. 1988. IRCA and agricultural workers: They may have strong arms but do they have to be braceros? In Defense of the Alien 10:78–101.

This article examines the conditions underpinning IRCA's preferential treatment of agriculture. According to Rosenberg, strong, effective lobbying and a history of reliance on foreign labor have made this special treatment possible. The Mexican economy and a porous southern border are also claimed to have helped maintain this tradition.


This paper examines labor market effects of immigration during the 1980s, a period that included the passage of IRCA in 1986. Analysis of Current Population Survey data from 1979 to 1989 containing information on wages and immigration leads to three major findings concerning changes in the wages of various immigrant and native-born groups, net of temporal trends in wages during the period: (1) the wages of recent Mexican immigrants did not change, either before or after IRCA; (2) the wages of Mexican immigrants who had been in the country for more than ten years declined by about 15 percent after the passage of IRCA; (3) there was no post-IRCA decline among native-born U.S. workers of Mexican descent.


IRCA has influenced every aspect of the farm labor market. In this study, the author focuses on the choice California growers make to use farm labor contractors' services under current labor market conditions. The analysis includes a study of how perceived labor costs changed in response to IRCA, including how the risks of being fined for not complying with the law have affected employers' hiring practices.
IV. UNDOCUMENTED FARMWORKERS AND LABORERS


This article summarizes the views of Mexican scholars on the structural determinants of illegal migration to the United States. The author claims that import substitution industrialization has led to a declining market for labor in Mexico, and that the growth of demand for goods typical of modernized economies has also led to a diversion of resources away from the essential needs of the poor. These developments in Mexico serve as push factors stimulating migration flows to the United States. Alba proposes that a contrast between peripheral and central economies is also crucial for understanding this particular phenomenon.


This article places the situation of undocumented Mexican immigrants in the United States in historical perspective. The author holds that the American state permitted illegal immigration as a necessary means of meeting its commitments to various sectors of capital and labor. The historical dialectics of the process that made illegal immigration the consequence of the strength of U.S. labor are also outlined.


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This chapter constitutes the second research report of the Zapata Canyon Project, which since 1986 has sought to document the flow of illegal migration from Mexico to the United States. The purpose of this current study is to present new data to facilitate an evaluation of the effects of IRCA.


This book is a case study of the lives of undocumented workers in Southern California, particularly San Diego County. In the introduction Chavez provides a historical overview of Mexican immigration to the United States showing that the present-day patterns are but a continuation of patterns established over the past century. The epilogue offers a discussion of policy concerning immigration to the United States and the anti-immigrant sentiment that creates the context in which immigration laws are created and enforced.


Ted Conover disguised himself as an illegal alien and crossed the U.S.–Mexican border with undocumented Mexican workers. This book describes his experiences and those of the many workers he met on his journey across the border.

Agricultural workers who work legally in the United States earn 15 percent more on average than do undocumented workers. These earnings differentials vary substantially with demographic characteristics. For example, much of the weekly earnings loss from not having legal status can be offset by language ability. Most of the earnings differential is due to wage differences rather than to differences in number of hours worked.


In this chapter Nickel develops a framework for evaluating limits on the rights of aliens. He first defines what he sees as the universal human rights, and then he discusses the obligations of governments in upholding these rights. Civil rights for aliens include the right to political participation and to entitlements (e.g., welfare and Social Security benefits). Nickel proposes that resident aliens be entitled to welfare benefits if they pay taxes and make Social Security payments. In the case of undocumented aliens, Nickel argues that countries who design immigration and guestworker policies must deal with not only aliens who are authorized to be in the country but also those who lack such authorization. What this means is that undocumented workers/aliens have rights that are not necessarily based on citizenship but rather on humanity.


This article develops an integrated empirical model of trade in vegetables and illegal immigration. The authors suggest that deteriorating economic conditions in Mexico push workers to the United States. The authors also find that tightening conditions in U.S. labor markets and increased real prices of vegetables pull workers to the United States. The article shows that immigration and trade policies influence numbers of apprehensions of undocumented workers.
V. FARM LABOR ORGANIZING


While the United Farm Workers Union (UFW) was heavily involved in seeking farm labor reforms in California, a similar movement was achieving prominence in the Midwest. The Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) led a social reform movement to achieve improved rights and conditions for migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois. In their book, Barger and Reza successfully document the rise, organization, and achievements of the FLOC in the Midwest. More specifically, the authors examine those processes of social change that directed the movement and helped FLOC achieve its major goals.


The movement to organize California farmworkers during the 1960s came from grassroots sources. No one played a more vital role than Cesar Chavez. In this chapter, Daniel evaluates the crucial role played by Chavez in the eventual founding of the United Farm Workers Union (UFW) and the struggle of the UFW to gain recognition and a strong foothold in California. Included is a detailed account of Chavez’s history, early influences, and political involvement before he began organizing.


This book (and the documentary film that complements it) is an attempt to capture the intensity and focus of the farmworker movement of the 1960s spearheaded by Cesar Chavez. Chapter 1 begins with the Great Depression and its effects on the Chavez family and Mexican farmworkers in California. The subsequent chapters follow history chronologically up to the death of Cesar Chavez. The epilogue documents the progress of the UFW as it attempts to organize workers in the 1990s. The photographs, essays, and voices included in this book help bring to light both the significance and the difficulty of the unionization efforts in the fields.


On June 11, 1936, nearly three thousand citrus pickers declared the largest strike ever to affect the citrus industry. In this chapter, Gonzalez discusses Mexican labor unionism in Orange County, picker grievances, the organization of the strike, and its suppression.


The pattern of labor exploitation in California agriculture involves conflict with the growers and their allies as well as with the state’s inconsistent attempts to ameliorate conflict for the sake of continued capital accumulation. Though agricultural labor has made many attempts to unionize during the past hundred years, only in the late 1930s and in the past few years has the state intervened in any significant way to help stabilize the labor supply by guaranteeing terms of work, job security, and control over work. For the most part, legislation, such as the bracero program, immigration and deportation laws, and general assistance to the growers’ concerns, has prevented any stability, and the migratory, ethnically shifting labor supply has been consistently the lowest paid group of laborers, sometimes having the power of strike and boycott, but mostly remaining a politically dominated segment of society.

A social history of agricultural labor and farmworker protests in California from 1870 to the present establishes several patterns in the relationship among agricultural workers, agricultural enterprises or growers, and the state. Data were gathered from historical research, contemporary accounts, and direct observation. Contrary to expectations suggested by research on industrial unionism, “control” issues appear to have an important place in agricultural unionization. Using the resource mobilization approach to analyze farmworker movements, it is concluded that the presence of “external” resources, (e.g., political support, assistance from community-based groups, and a liberal political climate) are necessary to elicit both concessions from growers and government reforms. Finally, a synthesis of several “theories of the state” developed over the past decade serves to analyze shifting governmental actions during different historical periods, varying from direct support for agribusiness in conflicts with agricultural labor to attempts to support reforms and farm labor unionization.


Since the early 1980s, farm labor unionization has reversed its direction in California. Here, reasons for the failure of collective bargaining to become fully established in California agribusiness are examined, based on interviews with current and former officials of the United Farm Workers (UFW), current and former officials of the Agriculture Labor Relations Board (ALRB), newspaper reporters, and other informed observers. The UFW experienced a serious internal crisis during the late 1970s that resulted in the departure of key officials and staff members. A change in administration in the governor’s office led to the appointment of officials less sympathetic to farm labor unionization. In this climate, grower tactics to prevent or delay unionization became more effective. Also discussed are the problems of protection of a power base by a segment of UFW leadership, the difficulty of translating personal authority into formal authority within the union, and dilemmas of state mediation of crises through legislation with the creation of the ALRB.


The collapse of the farm labor movement in California during the 1980s is viewed here as part of an overall decline in the cycle of protest and as a reversal of opportunities for transformations in class relations that the movement stimulated. Three factors that contributed to the failure to fully establish collective bargaining in California agribusiness are identified: a serious internal crisis in the United Farm Workers union during the 1970s, the appointment of government officials who were antagonistic to farm labor unionization, and increased effectiveness of grower tactics to prevent unionization. Resource mobilization and political opportunities as approaches to understanding the cyclical nature of protest movements are discussed.


This chapter describes several farm labor movements in the community of Santa Paula, California. Through the use of case studies, Menchaca documents the agricultural workers’ efforts to challenge unfair labor practices. She also illustrates how people of Mexican descent were discriminated against within the labor market and were prevented from obtaining union representation.


The efforts of Mexican-American tomato field workers in Ohio to unionize between 1967 and 1969 are examined in this short article. The Farm Labor Organizing Committee abandoned negotiations when it failed to win higher wages for members.
VI. FARMWORKERS AND SOCIAL WELFARE ISSUES

**Mexican Farmworkers and Education**


The Head Start Project emphasizes the importance of parental involvement in the full range of program operations. Within the Head Start community, the Migrant Programs Branch funds twenty-six grantees that operate programs in thirty-eight states. During the fiscal year 1993-94, approximately thirty-four thousand children were enrolled in Migrant Head Start programs. This article discusses the efforts of Migrant Head Start programs to involve parents.


The correlations between various criteria—highest grade level attained and academic performance, attendance, liking of various aspects of school, attitudes about the importance of school, participation in school activities, family and peer pressures, family problems, migration patterns, and demographic factors—were examined for 120 Mexican-American migrant farmworkers who were in the sixth grade in 1972. Questionnaire information was obtained from ninety-six subjects. Data from school records were obtained in three southern Texas school districts. Analysis revealed that 76 percent of the subjects failed to complete high school. Although a number of variables were significantly correlated with staying in school, a multiple regression analysis suggested that only five factors had a direct relationship. Subjects who were involved in school groups, who attended extracurricular events, who had low absenteeism, whose migratory trips were of short duration, and who did not feel poorer than other students were likely to stay in school longer than other subjects. It is suggested that intervention strategies might focus on increasing the involvement of migrant students in school activities, perhaps by paying them for participation.


This report presents information on the extent and prevalence of child labor in agriculture. It also reports on the legislative protections available to children working in agriculture, the enforcement of these protections, and how the federal educational assistance programs address the needs of children in migrant and seasonal agriculture. According to the report, close to 116,000 15-to 17-year-olds worked as hired agricultural workers in 1997. Of all children working in agriculture, between 400 and 600 suffer work-related injuries each year. It was also found that although the Departments of Education and Labor have many programs that aim to improve educational opportunities for disadvantaged school-aged children, few of these programs specifically target migrant and seasonal agricultural child workers, and most collect no information on the number of such children served.


This chapter discusses the socialization and educational process of Mexican children living in citrus worker villages. According to Gonzalez, the cultural aspect of education in village schools manifested itself through an emphasis upon English instruction and nonacademic vocational or industrial education. It is proposed that because educators perceived a narrow range of educational possibilities for Mexican children, they were trained for menial, physically demanding, and low-paying work.


The authors studied 151 academically successful and academically unsuccessful high-risk Mexican-American migrant high school students. The two groups were compared on sociological and psychological indicators of acculturation,
urbanization, and socioeconomic status (SES). Their worldviews were compared by exploring early recollection data. The unsuccessful group came from families that were larger, poorer, more rural, and more “foreign” (i.e., more parents and children born in Mexico) than the successful students’ families. Regarding the psychological indicators of acculturation, the successful group was found to score higher on modernism, to be more stable and more acculturated, to have a clearer sense of themselves, to have higher occupational aspirations and expectations, and to tend to want jobs with greater responsibility and stability than the unsuccessful group.

**Migrant Farmworker Health**

**General Health**


Work and health conditions of an undocumented Tabascan (Mexican) population influenced the status of eleven women (aged 20–55) within their families. The conditions threatened the physical and economic survival of the entire family but posed special challenges to women who were dependent on men and subordinated within the male-female relationship. This was so even though women would assume roles that were indispensable to the family but contradicted the culturally ideal gender hierarchy. These roles included subsistence provider, subsidy provider, and health care provider. The change in roles failed to change the hierarchy ideology. Gender structure, being a dichotomy of behavior and ideology, shows a differential interpretation of ideology by men and women, as shaped by their respective experiences in the local context.


The authors investigated the transforming effects of transnational immigration of the Mixtec (an indigenous community from the Mexican state of Oaxaca) on their personal health belief systems. Specific interest was focused on beliefs in omens (presagios) and health beliefs as measured by the Locus of Illness Control (LIC) instrument. Two convenience samples, a Mexican Mixtec (or national) sample in Mexico and a transnational sample residing in rural California, were interviewed and responded to the LIC instrument. Analyses of results, including statistical procedures, revealed significant differences between the two samples in relation to the number and type of omen beliefs and especially in relation to the dimensions of externality and internality and prevention and cure as measured by the LIC. The phenomenon of migration was clearly the primary factor associated with the change in the belief systems. Migrants to California revealed a much more pronounced external control profile, suggesting that transnational respondents see the power for control and prevention of illness as lying more outside themselves than does the national group. Implications of this finding for health professionals and others are discussed.


This chapter focuses on the health problems of migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Topics discussed include demographics, life as a migrant farmworker, the health of migrant farmworkers; occupational and environmental health problems; access to health care; and legislative protection for migrant farmworkers.


This chapter describes chronic health problems in rural America, highlighting the special health issues of Indians and farmworkers. The author documents service needs and problems in rural areas and notes that the low prevalence rates of certain chronic diseases in rural areas contribute to the difficulties children with chronic illnesses and their families face.
in trying to obtain needed services. Perrin presents recommendations that focus on the continued need to provide adequate financing to support such services and to improve rural families' access to high-quality primary care.


This study investigated explanatory models of tuberculosis (TB) among twenty-six Mexican migrant farmworkers (aged 18–65) working in western New York state, using data from in-depth interviews conducted in migrant camps. Respondents had worked as migrant farmworkers an average of ten years and had an average of five years of schooling. Two-thirds of the subjects had previously attended a TB education program, and four had received treatment for TB infection in the past. Farmworkers' explanations of TB etiology, severity, symptoms, prevention, treatment, and social significance are described as well as their beliefs about TB skin testing and the bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine. Migrant farmworkers' explanatory models were similar in many aspects to the medical model of TB, although farmworkers had numerous misconceptions about BCG vaccination. Health care workers should be aware that Mexican migrant farmworkers may have beliefs about TB that are very compatible with participation in testing and treatment programs if such programs are made accessible to them.


Rural housing settlements called colonias are home to many impoverished Rio Grande Valley residents, including migrant farmworkers. In this chapter exploring the lives of colonia residents, Richardson discusses the potential strengths of colonias as well as the problems of colonia life, including poor infrastructure, health hazards (e.g., lack of adequate sanitation, pesticide poisoning, and contaminated water), unemployment, and crime.


The authors conducted a 10 percent stratified random sample survey of 145 migrant Hispanic farm women (aged 15–49) in 1978 in Wisconsin to examine their fertility patterns. Interviews with the subjects revealed that they have greater numbers of children than other women in the U.S. They bore children younger, had greater infant mortality, and used fewer contraceptive techniques. It was hypothesized that their fertility behavior would be related to age, level of education, and degree of assimilation, the latter measured by bilingualism. Analysis showed that the variable most strongly associated with live births was age; when age was controlled, education was the main predictor. When the effects of both age and education were controlled, bilingual capacity also contributed to explaining births. Education, on the other hand, explained most of the variance in expected number of children. It is concluded that high fertility patterns are likely to continue among migrant farm women until level of education improves for the children, thus increasing their bilingual capacity and improving their occupational opportunities.


This study investigates migrants' utilization of folk healing and clinical medicine using data collected from a structured interview with 462 Mexican-American workers in Wisconsin and an intensive ethnographic study of health behavior of twelve families residing both in Wisconsin and Texas. Findings suggest that specific patterns of utilization depend mainly on structural conditions, such as geographic location and availability of folk or clinical medical services, and on the nature of the illness and depend secondarily on sex, age, income, and educational level.


This article examines Hispanic migrant farmworkers' driving behaviors and knowledge of the laws. Results are based on 126 observations and 167 face-to-face interviews conducted in Spanish at five labor camps in California. The subjects (drivers aged 17–49) reported “always” using seatbelts (86 percent) yet admitted that they had not used them within the previous two months. Observational data showed that only 37 percent used belts. Reasons for non-use reflected cultural and economic issues and lack of effective media safety campaigns for this group. Most (75 percent) drivers with children
(less than four years old) said that they used child safety seats; however, observations showed that regardless of the number of riders aged 0-4, the number of car seats never exceeded one. In 66 percent of the cars with children, no car seats were used. In all of these cases there were other passengers and drivers who were not belted. These results provide clear evidence of a serious gap between “saying” and “doing.” Much of the resistance to safety devices was ingrained in basic behaviors and beliefs.


This study reports an analysis of data involving the application of a social network intervention model using lay health advisors (LHA). The study population included 252 migrant farmworker women and their 63 infants receiving care at two health care delivery sites. Changes in knowledge, health status, and behaviors were assessed. Findings indicate that the LHA model is a valid one for migrant farmworker families.


Two hundred forty six Hispanic migrant farmworkers in migrant camps completed interviews regarding how they perceived their general health as compared with other people of the same gender and age. Subjects’ mental health was assessed by an index of well-being. Higher levels of mental well-being and higher scores on a composite measure of physical and mental health were associated with significantly higher weekly wages.

**Occupational Health**


The researchers investigated farmworker interpretation of an incident of pesticide poisoning to determine whether the incident was considered to precipitate the Mexican folk illness susto. Susto is considered to be untreatable by biomedical methods and to be caused by a startling occurrence that may cause the departure of the soul from the body. Symptoms include loss of appetite, listlessness, and lack of motivation to carry on normal daily activities. Interview data were gathered from thirty farmworkers aged 18–71 who were exposed to a pesticide-treated field and then treated in a community health clinic and/or local hospitals. Twenty-three percent of the subjects felt that they definitely or possibly had developed susto as a result of the pesticide exposure. These subjects complained of more residual symptoms from the exposure than did subjects who had been affected by the poisoning but who did not feel that they suffered from susto.


Agricultural work is among the most hazardous in the United States. A check of workers’ compensation claims filed in Washington state between 1982 and 1986 showed agricultural workers at a higher risk for fatal injuries than any other group. The authors of this article also found that agricultural workers were at a higher risk for respiratory diseases, cancer, noise-related hearing loss, and musculoskeletal disorders.


This report presents information on the extent and prevalence of child labor in agriculture. It also reports on the legislative protections available to children working in agriculture, the enforcement of these protections, and how the federal educational assistance programs address the needs of children in migrant and seasonal agriculture. According to the report, close to 116,000 15- to 17-year-olds worked as hired agricultural workers in 1997. Of all children working in agriculture, between 400 and 600 suffer work-related injuries each year. It was also found that, although the Departments of Education and Labor have many programs that aim to improve educational opportunities for
disadvantaged school-aged children, few of these programs specifically target migrant and seasonal agricultural child workers, and most collect no information on the number of such children served.


Two loci of control scales were adapted to farm safety for Hispanic/Latino farmworkers (n = 302) and farmers (n = 399) in California. Internal and external dimensions and hazard coping strategies were used. Searching for safety (SFS), a behavioral strategy, involves planning for hazardous events. Accepting danger, a cognitive strategy, accepts uncertainty and the unpredictability of some events. Although workers scored high on internality, externality was higher: this suggests that accident control is placed outside of themselves and given over to God, luck, or bosses. Farmworkers used accepting danger and SFS with equal success. Farmers scored higher on internal beliefs, thus emphasizing personal control over safety, yet acknowledging worker responsibility. They placed more faith in their planning efforts (SFS) than in the mental mechanism of accepting uncertainty (accepting danger). Factor analyses showed that the two scales successfully measured internality and externality and two coping strategies.


The risk perceptions and self-protective behavior of 282 Mexican-origin workers in response to pesticide exposure were examined. Several variables were predicted to influence reactions, but some deviations from past studies were expected because cultural or socioeconomic factors could modify risk responses. In keeping with predictions, greater risk perceptions were associated with beliefs that past harm had occurred, future harm to self or offspring was likely, precautions were less effective, and cancer-causing agents were mostly unavoidable. Self-protective behavior was most likely for those receiving risk information, having greater perceptions of control over health and the occupational situation, and believing that precautionary methods were effective. The discussion considers variability in response to chronic risk and the broader perspective offered by environmental hazard studies.


Constructing environmental and health policies appropriate across diverse communities is challenging. Group differences in the circumstances of exposure and in responses to environmental risks are common. Consequences of this variability may become more apparent given recent calls for more deregulation and an increased use of participatory strategies to manage environmental risks. Approaches requiring active public participation will be successful only if diverse groups can be engaged. Psychological studies of individual differences in risk behaviors can provide policymakers with insights about why responses vary in risk situations and how effective certain participatory strategies may be across a multicultural society. Responses of Mexican immigrant farmworkers to pesticide risk illustrate how the broader context of exposure can contribute to variability among communities in risk adaptation and affect the implementation of innovative policies.


Vaughan examines the association between socioeconomic factors and the risk responses of 437 Mexican immigrant farmworkers chronically exposed to agricultural pesticides. Farmworkers from a variety of occupational contexts participated and were expected to systematically differ in their response to pesticide exposure depending on socioeconomic circumstances, judgments about the risk situation, and subjective evaluation of occupational conditions. Analyses revealed that beliefs about the risks of pesticides were not randomly distributed throughout this sample, but varied with socioeconomic factors. Farmworkers, for example, who were in more limited economic circumstances judged future health effects to be more likely and believed that safety precautions were less effective. Additionally, socioeconomic circumstances modified the relationship between intraindividual factors and response to risk.

This book addresses the dangers confronting Mixtec migrant farmworkers in Mexican agriculture. Wright proposes that the exodus from the Mexican countryside and the explosive growth of the Mexican population, combined with a dynamic but currently stagnating economy, are all intimately related to the project of agricultural modernization. These factors combined are predicted to result in an increase in the flow of Mexicans into the United States. It must be noted here that Mixtecs already figure prominently in the United States agricultural labor force. As a point of departure, the book addresses the rising dependence on pesticides in the increasingly modern Mexican fields and their effects on the health and livelihood of Mixtec migrant farmworkers. In his case study of the Mexican export vegetable industry and of migrant farmworkers in Mexico and the United States, Wright shows how "agricultural development," as it is practiced, is not only unsustainable but extremely dangerous to farmworkers.

Other Health Risks among Farmworker Populations


AIDS-related knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors were assessed in female Mexican migrant laborers. Thirty-two women were administered a modified version of the Hispanic Condom Questionnaire. Respondents were knowledgeable about the major modes of HIV transmission, but one-third to one-half of the women believed that they could contract AIDS from unlikely casual sources. Although respondents reported few negative beliefs about condom use, actual condom use with sex partners was low, and knowledge of proper condom use was problematic. Consequently, 75 percent reported never carrying condoms. Implications of these findings for future research and provision of services for female Mexican migrants are discussed.


Ethnography can be used to assess the impact of HIV/AIDS education simultaneously with the implementation of program activities. An ethnographic analysis based on field methods adapted in a Michigan program that targets migrant farmworkers highlights responses to showings of a bilingual AIDS education video: the things to which migrants attend while they are interacting with the educator and one another in HIV education presentations; the tactics they employ to direct discussion when talking about HIV/AIDS; and the manner in which they use language to "distance" themselves from the topic of HIV infection and AIDS. Migrants in Michigan were found to experience the same risks to health as farmworkers in other states (low wages, long hours, and migrancy). They were also found to engage in high-risk behaviors while in Michigan (primarily consensual/contractual sex).


Because high rates of drug use have been documented in the migrant farmworker population, the National Institute on Drug Abuse funded the Migrant Health Study to examine HIV risk behaviors among drug-using farmworkers and their sexual partners. Many of these individuals were home-based in south Florida and migrated during the work season to various points along the eastern migratory stream. The focus of this paper is a description of the characteristics and behaviors of the 151 respondents (mean age 35) contacted on the DelMarVa Peninsula during 1994 and 1995. The data indicate that drug use was widespread in this population, a significant proportion were at risk for HIV infection, and 6 percent were HIV positive. As a result of these findings, public health agencies on the peninsula have instituted HIV education programs in those clinics utilized by both local and transient agricultural workers.

This article explores critical knowledge of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), patterns of sexual behavior, and self-injection for therapeutic reasons among migrant farmworkers. Data were collected through face-to-face interviews with 378 Hispanic migrant workers aged 14–45. It was found that 20.3 percent of the respondents reported self-injecting antibiotics and vitamins for medicinal reasons, whereas only 2.6 percent self-injected recreational drugs. It was also found that 25.4 percent of subjects had no sex partners in a one-year period, 39.1 percent reported only one sex partner, 35.5 percent reported having two or more sexual partners, and 18.5 percent reported intercourse with prostitutes. Hence, sexual intercourse with multiple partners was the major risk factor for contracting HIV. The authors suggest that AIDS health education needs to address self-injection in its intervention programs.


This study reports findings from a survey of condom-related beliefs, behaviors, and perceived social norms in Mexican migrant laborers that live and work in the United States for extended periods of time. Results show that subjects reported few negative beliefs about condom use and high efficacy to use condoms in challenging sexual situations, but social norms sanctioning condoms were limited.


The authors review the literature on the threat of AIDS to migrant laborers and seasonal farmworkers in the United States. The review includes a sociodemographic profile of migrants in the U.S., estimations of HIV prevalence, and a summary of AIDS- and condom-related knowledge, beliefs, and behaviors. In addition, migration-related HIV exposure categories and cultural factors that frame the risk for contracting AIDS in the migrant population are summarized. Directions for future research and prevention interventions needed to address an emerging epidemic are discussed.


A large proportion of farmworkers in the United States are young Latinos and Latinas who travel thousands of miles in search of farm work. Research indicates that adolescent farmworkers engage in high-risk behaviors; however, little is known about their sexuality-related knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, or communication patterns. The purpose of this exploratory piece is to investigate sexuality-related communication channels among groups of school-attending female and male Latino adolescent farmworkers in a Pennsylvania county. The discussions provide both insights into the adolescent farmworkers' information sources and communication patterns and suggestions for how to reach this at-risk population.
farmworker mothers isolated from social support, because such isolation, in combination with problems in life conditions, places their children at higher risk for maternal rejection.


This study examined parental correlates of developmental outcomes among sixty Mexican American migrant farmworker children (aged 3–8). Parents were interviewed to assess psychological state (mastery, self-esteem, depression), family stress, social support, parenting behavior, and the children's developmental outcomes (behavioral problems, a general cognitive index, and peer acceptance). Teachers' reports were secured regarding child behavior problems (CBPs) and peer acceptance. Maternal parenting style accounted for a significant amount of the variance in CBPs reported by the mothers, while maternal social support helped to explain the variance in peer acceptance reported by the children. Father's parenting style and social support helped to predict a significant amount of the variance in mother report of CBPs and teacher rating of CBPs.


The authors observed two migrant farm labor camps during two summer harvesting seasons. This study concludes that migrant farmworkers were exploited by the crew boss and the farm owner, and they in turn exploited each other. Consequently, many workers left farm work. Those who remained in the camps adapted their attitudes and their views to the conditions. Though they had a grudging respect for the crew boss, they showed an overriding concern with exploitation. They conveyed numbness about life, themselves, and their place in society; this numbness was combined with self-criticism and an attempt to maintain self-respect. They expressed distrust for and suspicion of others, and though they could not articulate it very well, they felt great fear and anxiety. The authors conclude that to diagnose and treat disorder in migrant farmworkers, psychiatrists must understand the exploitive social setting of migrant farm work and the adaptations of workers to that setting.


This article states that children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers constitute important populations for study because they are exposed to chronic residential and school mobility. The results of this study indicate that 66 percent of the children interviewed had one or more psychiatric diagnoses based on mother or child reports. The findings of this study suggest that the need for larger, epidemiological study of the psychiatric morbidity of rural children of farmworkers is great.


This study compared 151 academically successful and academically unsuccessful high-risk Mexican-American migrant high school students on sociological and psychological indicators of acculturation, urbanization, and socioeconomic status (SES). The worldviews of the two groups were compared by exploring early recollection data. The unsuccessful group came from families that were larger, poorer, more rural, and more "foreign" (i.e., more parents and children born in Mexico) than the successful students' families. Regarding the psychological indicators of acculturation, the successful group was found to score higher on modernism, to be more stable and acculturated, to have a clearer sense of themselves, to have higher occupational aspirations and expectations, and to tend to want jobs with greater responsibility and stability than the unsuccessful group.


This article examines the use of various types of services for children's mental health problems among 112 agricultural farmworker families. Children (aged 8–11) and their mothers were administered the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children and the Child and Adolescent Services Assessment. Over 50 percent of subjects (64 percent) met the criteria
for one or more psychiatric diagnoses. Although having a psychiatric diagnosis increased the odds of seeing a health professional for these problems fivefold over subjects who did not have a psychiatric diagnosis, fewer than half the subjects with a psychiatric diagnosis saw a health professional for their mental health problems. Physicians were the most commonly consulted health care professionals. Families also consulted with school professionals, religious leaders, and nonprofessionals concerning their children's mental health. Recommendations for improving the mental health service delivery system for rural children are discussed.


This study examined the psychosocial stressors experienced by Mexican and Central American immigrants in the United States. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with sixty-two respondents, half of them males, who were nearly equally divided between Mexicans and Central Americans. Use of a social support network was found effective as a coping response for seeking and obtaining employment, obtaining a place to live, and overcoming language difficulties. Men were found to score higher on a measure of depression than women. This may be due to greater role strain experienced by men who have limited resources to use in the care of their families.


This article presents findings from a epidemiological field survey of five hundred Mexican-American farmworkers intended as an assessment of their health needs. The Health Opinion Survey (HOS) was used to establish normative psychiatric symptom distributions. Analyses of the data by gender, age, and income revealed that these sociodemographic variables were not important predictors of symptom levels, although the highest mean scores were reported in the 40–59 age group. The authors conclude that farmworkers experience psychiatric symptom levels that place them at extraordinary risk. Stresses associated with this group, including limited social mobility, transience, poverty, discrimination, and a high rate of traumatic life events, are identified as possible contributors to this risk proneness.


Two hundred forty-six Hispanic migrant farmworkers in migrant camps completed interviews regarding how they perceived their general health as compared with other people of the same gender and age. Subjects' mental health was assessed by an index of well-being. Higher levels of mental well-being and higher scores on a composite measure of physical and mental health were associated with significantly higher weekly wages.

**Problems of Mexican Farmworker Women**


This article discusses drinking patterns and problems among the women of a Mexican farmworker community in Northern California. Male responses are provided as a basis for comparison. The study examines issues related to driving under the influence, public vs. private space, and the centrality of considerations regarding children/youth in setting acceptable parameters for drinking. Interviews were conducted with thirteen men and sixteen women over a six-month period in 1991. Most of the women in the camp abstained from drinking. They defined male drinking as a problem when youth are allowed and encouraged to drink, when an increase of individuals driving under the influence in the housing center becomes evident, and when drinkers serve as poor role models for youth.

AIDS-related knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors were assessed in female Mexican migrant laborers. Thirty-two women were administered a modified version of the Hispanic Condom Questionnaire. Respondents were knowledgeable about the major modes of HIV transmission, but one-third to one-half of the women believed that they could contract AIDS from unlikely casual sources. Although respondents reported few negative beliefs about condom use, actual condom use with sex partners was low, and knowledge of proper condom use was problematic. Consequently, 75 percent reported never carrying condoms. Implications of these findings for future research and provision of services for female Mexican migrants are discussed.


This study interviewed and administered such measures as the Inventory of Socially Supportive Behaviors to a hundred Mexican-American mothers (aged 19–57) of preschoolers who participated in a Head Start program. Total social support accounts for more variation in maternal acceptance/rejection than problems in life conditions alone. Social support accounted for 75 percent of the variance in maternal acceptance/rejection of preschool children, and accessibility to support predicted the largest proportion of the variance. It is important to identify Mexican-American migrant farmworker mothers isolated from social support, because such isolation, in combination with problems in life conditions, places their children at higher risk for maternal rejection.


In this chapter, the author attempts to describe the general conditions of life for migrant farmworkers and the oppressive conditions under which they live. From this description, the reader can begin to understand the scope of the problem of domestic violence for migrant farmworker women and their families. The author also shares the strategies for clinical interventions with this population she has developed and her hopes for the future.


This article reports an analysis of data involving the application of a social network intervention model using lay health advisors (LHA). The study population included 252 migrant farmworker women and their 63 infants receiving care at two health care delivery sites. Changes in knowledge, health status, and behaviors were assessed. Findings indicate that the LHA model is a valid one for migrant farmworker families.

**Social Services for Migrant Farmworkers and Laborers**


This report is a compilation of proceedings, written statements, and other materials on the conditions of migrant farm labor in the United States submitted to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Presented are an overview of farm labor economics, information on the demographics and living conditions of migrants, and information on relevant government-operated programs servicing migrant farmworkers. This report addresses the coordination and provision of services to migrants. The Commission recommends that efforts be made to eliminate discrimination and remove cultural barriers that prevent migrant farmworkers from benefiting from social, health, and other services available in the communities where they work.

According to Espenshade, the new fiscal policies toward immigrants aim at reducing the public costs of immigration by eliminating or restricting immigrants' access to public benefits. These fiscal policies reflect the sense of frustration and anxiety that most Americans feel as a result of the growing economic insecurity that is fueled by stagnant wages, corporate downsizing and white collar layoffs, job losses to overseas labor markets, and concern over high taxes. In this chapter, Espenshade discusses the new fiscal politics of immigration, federal welfare reforms affecting immigrants, and the state-led initiatives enacted in response to these welfare reforms.


The Head Start Project emphasizes the importance of parental involvement in the full range of program operations. Within the Head Start community, the Migrant Programs Branch funds twenty-six grantees that operate programs in thirty-eight states. During the fiscal year 1993–94, approximately thirty-four thousand children were enrolled in Migrant Head Start programs. This article discusses the efforts of Migrant Head Start programs to involve parents.


This book argues that it makes more sense to reform the farm labor market itself than to develop special programs to reduce poverty among farmworkers. The authors suggest ways to better coordinate existing programs to maximize their effectiveness.