Conceptual H1N1 Risk Framework for Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers

Potential for greater exposure to influenza virus
- Limited access to linguistically and culturally appropriate information on protective behaviors
- Crowded households that increase transmission and inhibit isolation of the sick
- Inability to miss work due to lack of paid sick time and to agricultural time demands
- Reliance on group childcare arrangements

Enhanced susceptibility to disease, once exposed to the virus
- Host factors including higher rates of underlying health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, HIV/AIDS, and respiratory ailments
- Limited access to vaccine and antivirals due to deferred preventive care

Impeded access to timely, effective treatment once the disease has developed
- Financial obstacles
  - Lack of health insurance
  - Inability to miss work to seek care
  - Limited ability to pay for care
- Logistical impediments
  - Lack of transportation to and from clinic
  - Language and cultural barriers with healthcare staff
  - Limited number of accessible healthcare facilities, especially in rural areas
- Legal prohibitions
  - Fear of deportation among undocumented immigrants

“There’s no reason to think the virus discriminates. Rather, the [racial] disparities in who is getting sick and dying reflect entrenched inequalities in American society.”

NYT Editorial Board, April 7, 2020

“In practice, in the real world, this virus [COVID 19] behaves like others, screeching like a heat-seeking missile toward the most vulnerable in society… And this happens not because it prefers them, but because they are more exposed, more fragile, and more ill.”

Charles Blow, NYT, April 5, 2020
Vulnerable Populations in Pandemic

- Elderly
- Marginalized and stigmatized groups
- Limited English-proficiency
- Low income and uninsured
- Incarcerated and other institutionalized populations
- Immigrant and refugee communities
- Homeless populations
- Disabled populations
Age-Adjusted All-Cause Mortality 1900-1999

1918-1919 Influenza Pandemic

Source: American Journal of Public Health 99, S261-S270
Disparities in H1N1 Influenza-Related Hospitalization Rates, 2009-2010

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