

Workers

Essential and Vulnerable COVID-19

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**Michigan's asparagus harvest
seemed to go well, then the COVID-
19 outbreaks came**

Immigrant, Black, Latinx, Communities of Color

- “Essential ”
- Dangerous
- Low-wage



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- COVID-19 is affecting Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other people of color the most.
 - Black people are dying at 2.5 times the rate of white people.
 - Latinx twice as likely as whites to get infected with COVID-19.





Health and safety is challenged by...

- Migratory lifestyle
- Cultural and language differences
- Immigration status
- Inherent dangers and health risks of occupation
- Lack of access to insurance or financial resources
- Lack of regulatory protection

Social Determinants of COVID-19 Mortality

In rural counties (n=2826), counties with more **non-English speaking households and more farm workers had significantly higher levels of mortality**, as did counties with higher levels of poverty and more residents over the age of 65.

Fielding-Miller et. al preprint July 2020



Blame workers

- “Home and social conditions” cause of meatpacking outbreaks
- “Living Circumstances in Certain Cultures”
- “They go to work in school buses and they’re all packed in there like sardines.”



Contact Tracing?

Our essential workers
survive in shadows.

- Fear
- Broken, cruel
immigration system





Families of mixed immigration status often behave as if all members of family do not have documentation.



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- Abandoned by feds
 - State policies vary
 - County policies vary
 - It's up to workers, families, service providers, health centers and advocates
 - And the employer
 - LOCAL LOCAL LOCAL



Community Trust



Partnering in Maine

