

BACKGROUND

- 3,000,000 agricultural workers in the US → 52% undocumented^{2,4}
- 800,000 agricultural workers in CA → ½ are undocumented immigrants²
- Higher rates of chronic health conditions, such as obesity, hypertension, cholesterol, respiratory diseases, and cirrhosis⁴
- Health disparities strongly influenced by documentation status, language and cultural barriers, access to healthcare, education, income, and political climate^{1,3}
- Lack of trust in institutions lead to less use of available resources²

OBJECTIVE

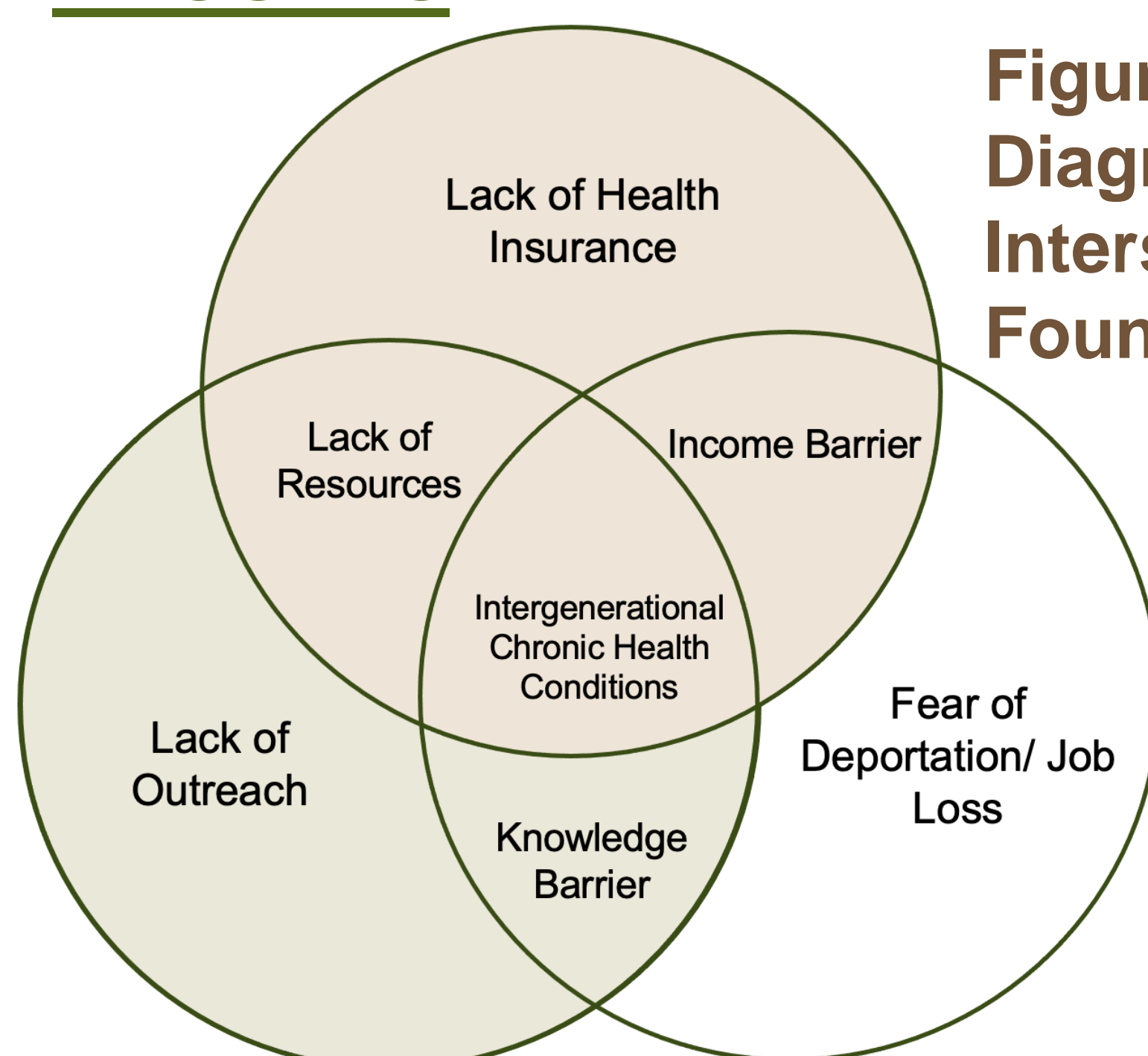
To determine whether documentation status has an impact on chronic health conditions among farmworkers in California.

METHODS

- Three case studies (one farmworker organizations, one migrant health clinic, and one farmworker community leader)
- Semi-structured interviews in April & May 2022 via Zoom
- Collected information regarding chronic health conditions and barriers faced by farmworkers in California
- NVivo Software → Thematic analysis

RESULTS

Figure 1. Venn Diagram of Intersecting Themes Found in Interviews



RESULTS

Table 1. Sensitivity Analysis of Interviews

Themes	Farmworker Organization (Center for Farmworker Families)	Farmworker Community Leader (Anonymous)	Migrant Health Clinic (Altura Centers for Health)	Number of Studies
Lack of Health Insurance				3
Lack of Outreach				2
Fear of Deportation & Job Loss				3
Intergenerational Chronic Health Conditions				1
Lack of Knowledge of Resources				2

Table 2. Quote Analysis

Themes	Direct Quotes
(1) Lack of Health Insurance	<p>"Documented individuals take care of themselves, they will go to the doctor, they have Medi-Cal for their kids if they're born in this country and have health insurance, whereas undocumented people have nothing and are constantly in fear." (Center for Farmworker Families)</p> <p>Gente con papeles como quiera siempre tienen quien les cubra un seguro médico, de una manera u otra. Y a las personas que no tienen no tienen manera y no todos se animan. Se aguantan hasta que es una enfermedad grave es cuando recurren a las clínicas a ver que tipo de programa puede ayudarles y no siempre se les ayuda el cien por ciento." (Farmworker Community Leader)</p> <p>"Unfortunately, this population does not seek help until it's the last resort. Until they can't take it anymore and this is because they don't have health insurance. However, we do have programs that offer reduced prices of up to 20 dollars." (Altura Centers for Health)</p>
(2) Lack of Outreach	<p>"You know, we have these distributions and the information about them is transferred by word of mouth." (Center for Farmworker Families)</p> <p>"No se habla tanto de esas organizaciones. He escuchado una pero no se como se llama. A veces la mencionan En realidad para las personas que trabajan en el campo, se reúnen ahí, hacen su trabajo y nadie les habla de esas organizaciones." (Farmworker Community Leader)</p>
(3) Fear of Deportation & Job Loss	<p>"I think another one of the tragedies is that in the undocumented population, they're reluctant to seek help on anything because they live in constant fear. So that includes health issues. Generally speaking, if they have some sort of health issue, rather than go to the doctor, they will depend on curanderos or somebody else and wait until it gets to a point where they have to go to an emergency room, when it could have been handled as a small issue."</p> <p>"I would say the biggest barrier is just lack of legal status." (Center for Farmworker Families)</p> <p>Son personas también que no pueden dejar de trabajar por que les cuenta un día que falten. El trabajo es algo que necesitan ellos. Hay muchos programas en las clínicas pero en realidad no muchos se animan a ir por no tener papeles para ir a buscar esos programas para aliviar la enfermedad que tengan. Muchas veces no quieren decir que están trabajando sin sus papeles." (Farmworker Community Leader)</p> <p>"Fear and culture are probably the biggest barriers I see within this population. You have to work, and you don't receive anything free, you don't ask for anything." (Altura Centers for Health)</p>
(4) Intergenerational Chronic Health Conditions	<p>"They have a multigenerational study of the impact of pesticides on generations now." (Center for Farmworker Families)</p>
(5) Lack of Knowledge and Resources	<p>"Unfortunately for undocumented people, rarely do they ask for information." (Center for Farmworker Families)</p> <p>"Ninguna. Se que hay pero en realidad no me han hablado los trabajadores de eso. No busca uno tanto de eso. No tienen tiempo para buscar las." (Farmworker Community Leader)</p>

CONCLUSIONS

- These results highlight why it is important to consider multiple factors that contribute to the increased rates of chronic health conditions among farmworkers
- Responses indicate a lack of documentation exacerbates chronic health conditions
- Limitations include restricted direct outreach to farmworkers due to vulnerability and small sample size
- Information reflective upon data collected from representative organizations

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Worker compensation for undocumented farmworkers to receive preventative care
- Health insurance programs extended to undocumented farmworkers could prevent medical emergencies resulting in worsened conditions

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