
Why a Farmworker Health Project?

An estimated 80,000-100,000 migrant and seasonal farm workers are needed each year in Georgia to plant, cultivate and harvest labor intensive crops. Georgia farmers are dependent upon the hard work of these individuals. Indeed, the bounty of our dinner tables is also dependent upon their labor.

Access to basic health care is often very difficult for migrant farm workers. Barriers to their care include those of language, transportation, work and clinic hours, finances, and other factors.



Who We Are

The Emory Physician Assistant (PA) Program is a highly respected 28 month program within the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, Emory School of Medicine. Each year approximately 50 students matriculate into the Program. After completing their didactic course work on the Atlanta campus, they complete clinical rotations throughout Georgia. They return to Atlanta for their final semester of course work, and graduate with a Master of Medical Science degree. The PA Program has a successful mission to train Physician Assistants to work in rural areas and with medically underserved or at-risk populations.

The Project was developed in cooperation with the Southwest Georgia Area Health Education Center (SOWEGA AHEC), a non-profit organization based in Albany, GA. The Georgia Farmworker Health Program, a division of the State Office of Primary Care, has provided consultation in the development and implementation of this Project.

The Project

The Emory PA Program collaborates with local farmers and members of the health care community to provide free health care for migrant workers and their family members. Senior PA students, Family Medicine residents, and PA/MD faculty see workers in the migrant camps and packing sheds, in fields of tomatoes or peppers, and in school programs.



Preventive health care, health education, and treatment of identified health problems are provided. Students and faculty alike are sensitized to the needs of this population, and are encouraged to donate their services after graduation to similar projects.

Is help needed?

The Project has been strengthened through the partnership of community and corporate supporters. Yearly needs include medications, caps and clothing, sunglasses, dental care supplies, and personal hygiene items. The Project also seeks partnership in ongoing financial support. Funds are needed to continue to purchase supplies and to house participants in the Project.

Further information may be obtained from:

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South Georgia Farmworker Health Project

*A Collaborative Project
of the Emory Physician
Assistant Program*