UMASH Quarterly Meeting Highlights

February 26, 2016

Meeting Location: UW-Eau Claire, School of Nursing, Eau Claire WI
Attendees: Bruce Alexander, Jeff Bender, Jessica Evanson (phone), LauRen Gaines, Eileen Harwood, Teresa Hillmer, Diane Kampa, Matt Keifer, Carrie Klumb, Mi Lee, Amy Liebman (phone), Carol Peterson, Ruth Rasmussen, Iris Reyes, , Kirk Smith, Evan Sorley. Lisa Schiller (UW-Eau Claire host)

1. Project Updates

Meeting participants heard updates from each of the project leads. As data collection efforts wrap up, focus has shifted to data analysis, planned publications and upcoming presentations. Project and outreach staff have also been involved in promoting and disseminating UMASH products, such as the new dairy Stockmanship safety resources (videos, DVDs, posters), Needlestick prevention (videos, factsheets), creating/disseminating Stay Healthy on the Farm handout, consulting with fairs, creating Flu shot ads for poultry and swine, promoting Bilingual dairy safety training curriculum, among other things.

2. Emerging Issues & Horizon Scanning

Presenters and meeting participants explicitly and implicitly raised several concerns about issues that are or could be seen as emerging. These fall roughly into three categories as follows:

1. Data and methods: (a) measuring socio-demographic determinants of ag health and safety (e.g., gender, trends in hiring immigrant and migrant ag job seekers by personal characteristics, behaviors, health knowledge gaps, etc.); (b) identifying feasible denominators to calculate proportional trends in ag worker health and safety to increase population research in these areas; (c) filtering data to identify emerging issues.
2. Environmental settings: (a) agri-tourism (e.g., visitor education, legal protections, warning systems); (b) return-to-work beyond currently targeted ag settings; and (c) effects of global economy (and climate changes) on farms, worker hiring, demand, production yields, prices, profits, and occupational safety and health.
3. Outreach, education, and training: (a) on-site safety classes offered in more languages; (b) frequency of training that considers worker turn-over cycles; (c) info dissemination expanded to physician/health care workers; and (d) beyond languages, consideration for occupational lingo, language/word themes, communication norms across occupational groupings.

3. Center-engaged discussion: Immigrant Worker Status & Implications for UMASH

Matt Keifer and Amy Liebman facilitated a center-engaged discussion on Latino immigrant workers by providing background and understanding about the challenges faced by this workforce. In the end, the question was posed: “What does this mean for UMASH as we proceed to do our work?”
For more background on this issue, we recommend reviewing:

Publication: Immigrant Dairy Workers’ Perceptions of Health and Safety on the Farm in America’s Heartland

Presentation Slides: Latino Immigrant Workers in US Agriculture

4. Outreach & Communication

Meeting participants previewed the new “We’re UMASH” marketing video and engaged in discussion about other ways to leverage video to provide education, be it through short training videos (like the Stockmanship) or longer e-learning type modules, and/or video abstracts on research findings. Outreach team will continue to move this initiative forward, collaborating with project teams on ideas for marketing, training, and other video projects.

Next Center Meeting: Friday, June 24, 2016, University of Minnesota – St Paul Campus