

# Dehydration Status and Heat Related Symptoms in Florida Farmworkers

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June 21<sup>st</sup> 2017



# The “Year of Climate Change & Health”



Climate Change



*"We're committed to making sure the nation knows about the effects of climate change on health. If anyone doesn't think this is a severe problem, they are fooling themselves." --APHA Executive Director Georges Benjamin, in the Washington Post*



THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON  
**HUMAN HEALTH**  
IN THE UNITED STATES

A Scientific Assessment

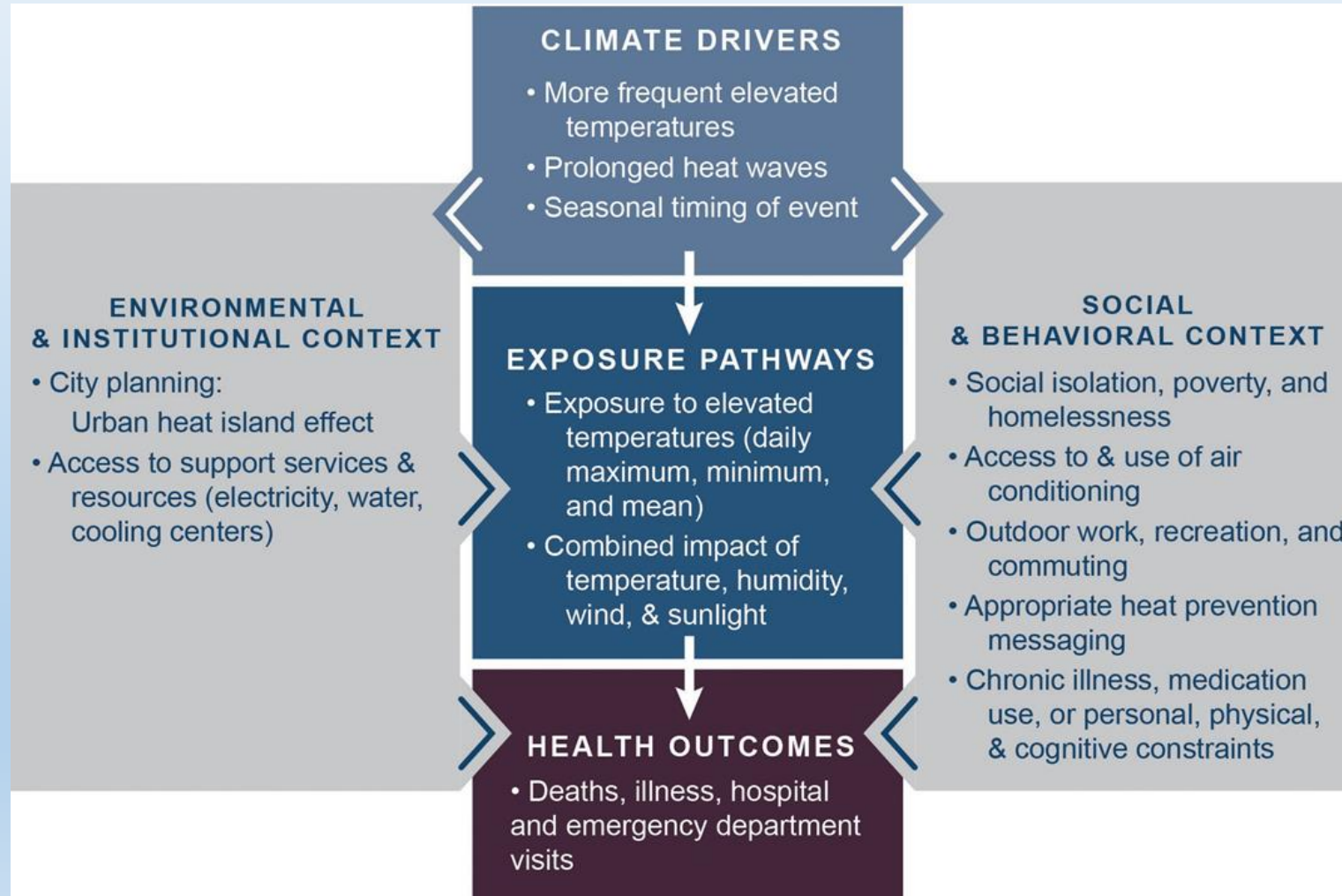
U.S. Global Change Research Program



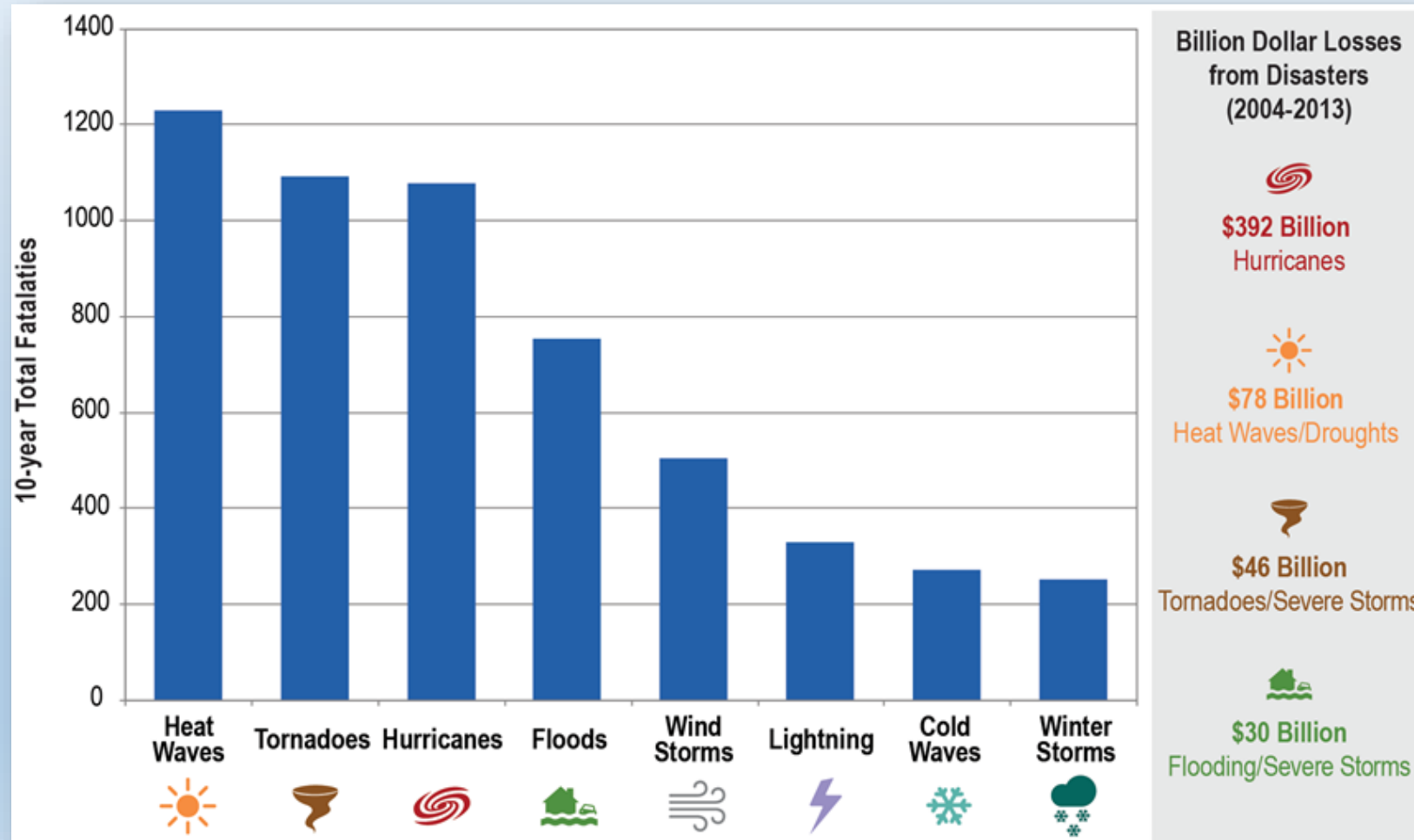
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# Climate Change and Health-Extreme Heat



# Estimated Deaths & Billion Dollar Losses from Extreme Events in the United States 2004–2013





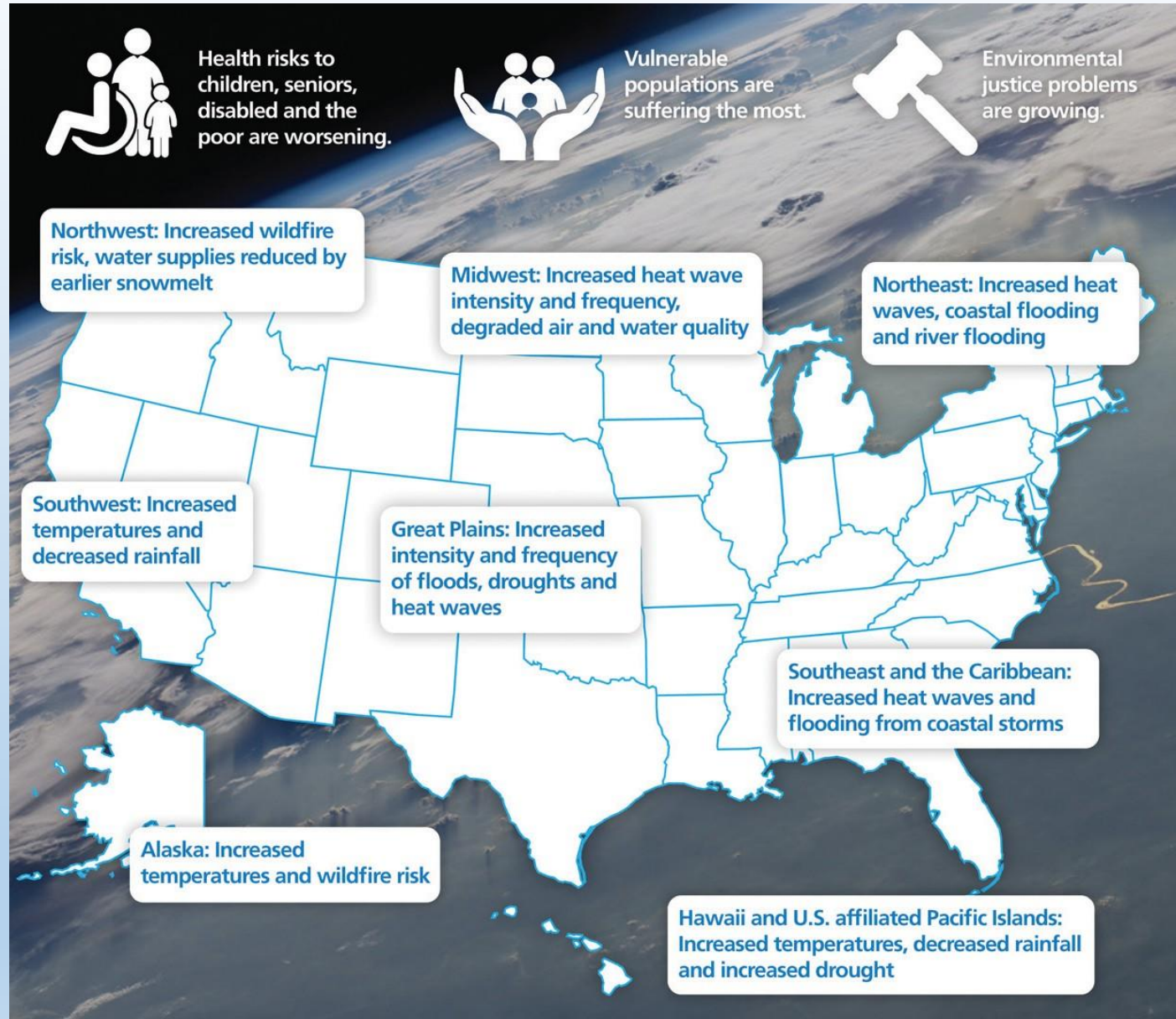
Health risks to children, seniors, disabled and the poor are worsening.



Vulnerable populations are suffering the most.



Environmental justice problems are growing.



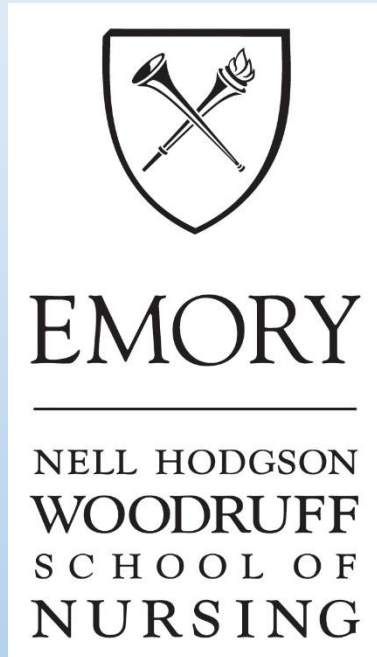
# Vulnerable Populations

- Factors that Contribute to Exposure

- Occupation
- Time spent in risk-prone locations
- Responses to extreme events
- Socioeconomic status
- Infrastructure conditions and access
- Compromised mobility, cognitive function and other mental or behavioral factors



# Academic/Community Partnership



**Farmworker Association of Florida  
La Asociación Campesina de Florida  
Asosiyasyon Travayè Latè nan Florid**



# Pregnancy Health Among Florida Farmworkers

## Aims

- Examine current perceptions of work hazards
- Assess extent of heat, ergonomic stress, and chemical exposures
- Develop health promotion education materials
- Disseminate results



# Heat Related Illness Death

## Pregnant Farmworker Dies After Being Denied Shade, Water; Family Calls for Action

Thursday, June 05, 2008  
Associated Press

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AP

June 2: Josefina Flores, right, carries a photograph of Maria Isabel Vasquez Jimenez, an undocumented farm worker who collapsed and died in a vineyard last month because her conditions on thousands of vineyards and orchards.

**LODI, California —** The death of a pregnant teenager pruning grape vines in scorching heat has outraged California's farmworking community and sparked calls for safety reforms as laborers prepare for the long summer harvest.

Authorities in California — the only state with a heat-illness standard — suspect Maria Isabel Vasquez Jimenez, a 17-year-old undocumented Mexican immigrant, collapsed last month because her farm labor contractor denied employees proper access to shade and water.

On Wednesday, 500 farmworkers and their advocates capped a poignant, four-day march to the statehouse demanding safer

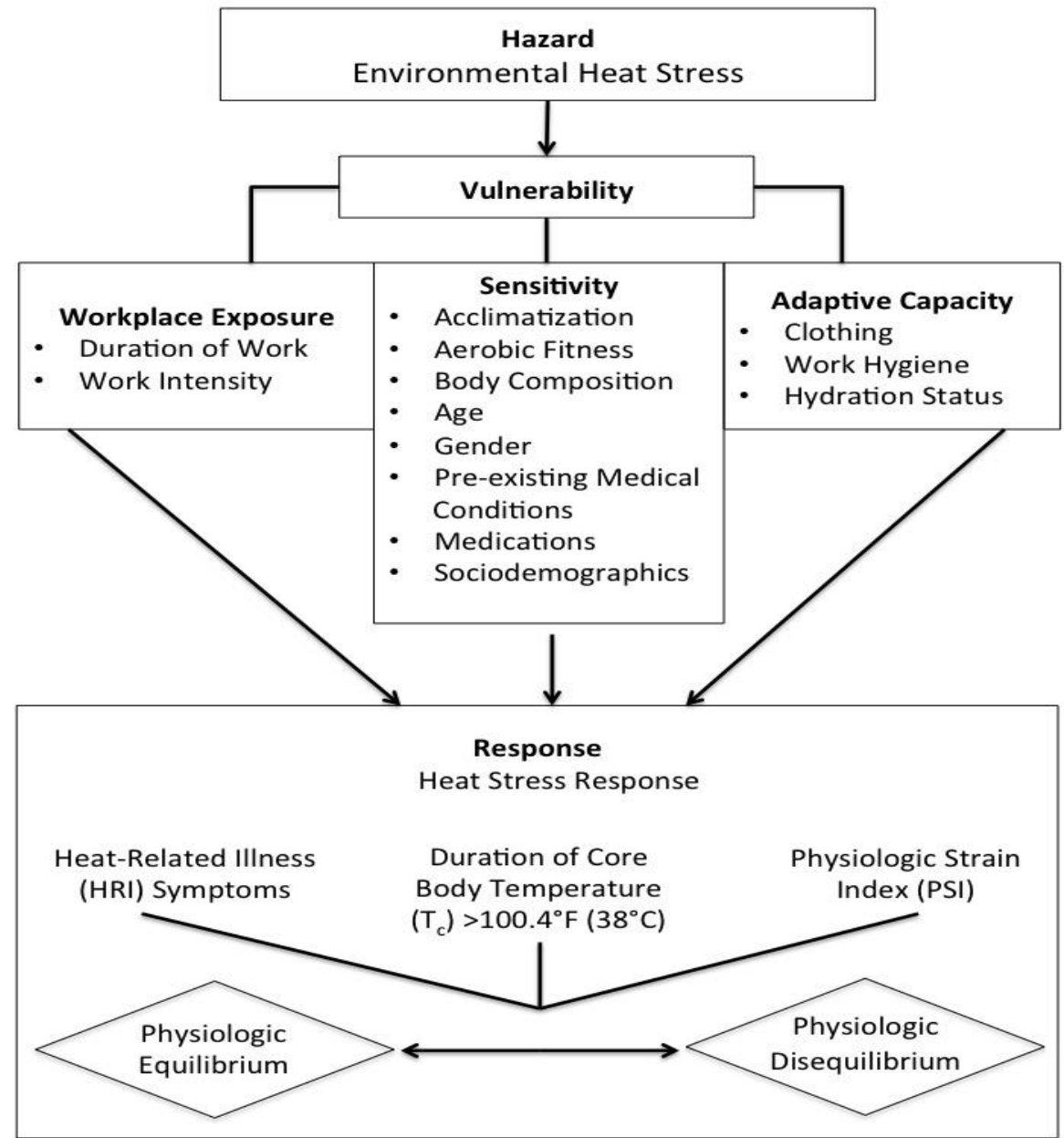
# Heat Stress: hot humid work environments



# The Girasoles (Sunflower) Study

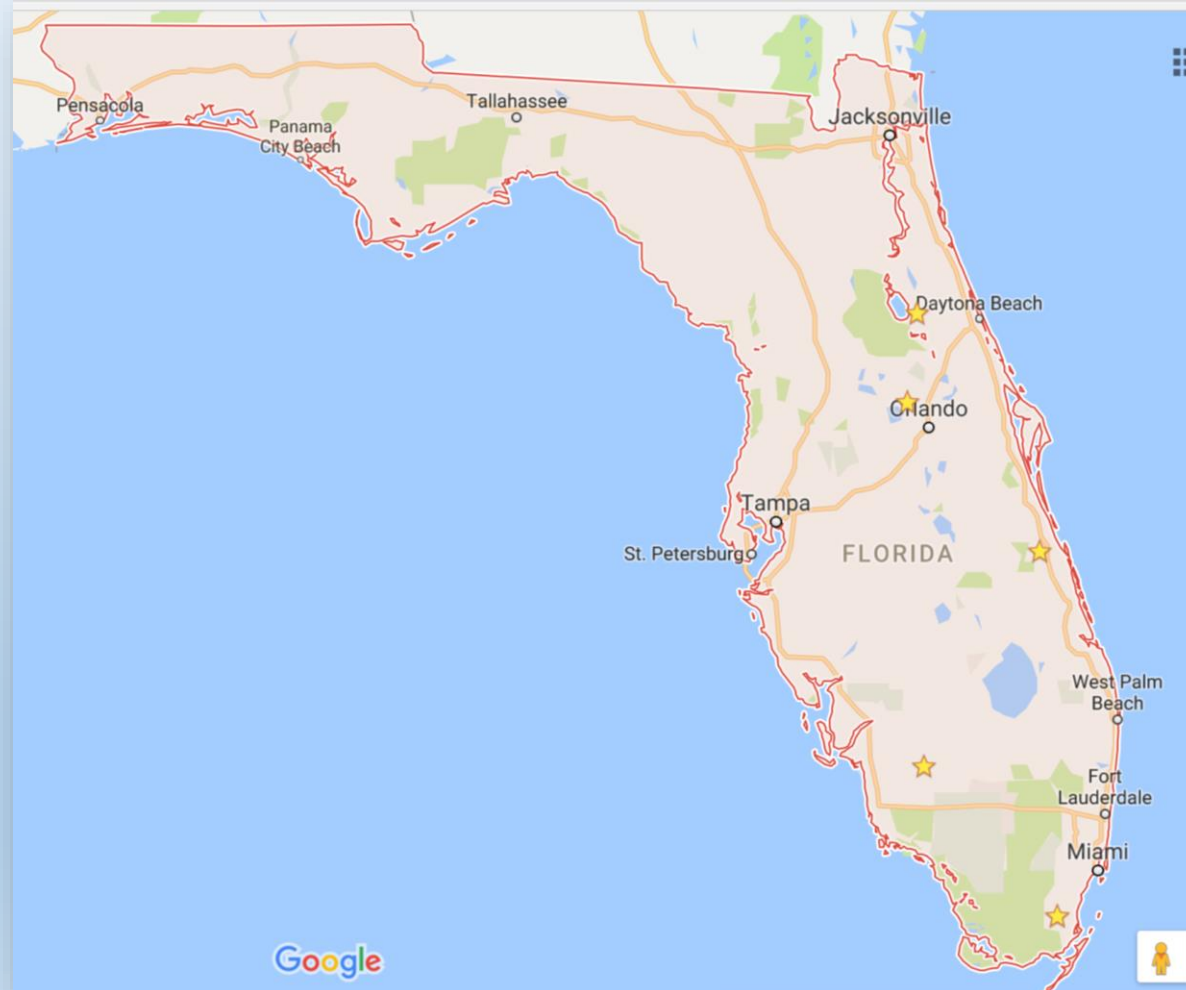
## 2014-2018

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health R01OH010657



# Five Girasoles Study Recruitment Locations

- Apopka
- Pierson
- Immokalee
- Fellsmere
- Homestead



# Heat Related Illness Death

**Naples Daily News**  
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## Farmworker dies after complaining of heat exhaustion on bus ride back to Immokalee

Maria Perez, Naples Daily News 12:00 a.m. ET May 19, 2016

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*(Photo: Staff)*

Local and federal authorities are investigating the death of a Haitian farmworker who died after complaining of heat exhaustion during a two-hour bus ride back to Immokalee from the tomato fields.

Jean Francois Alcime, 50, received water and ice before leaving the field Tuesday, but while in the bus, Alcime said he needed help, a co-worker, Louis Nerveus Deceus, who was sitting next to him told Collier County deputies.

Deceus told the deputies he called the contractor and owner of the Gomez Harvesting bus, Adele Trevino, and he told her Alcime wasn't feeling well.


Deceus told deputies Trevino said Alcime should rest on the bus and that they should call the paramedics when the bus returned to Immokalee if he didn't feel better.


But when the bus arrived in Immokalee and Deceus tried to wake up Alcime, he wasn't breathing, according to the Collier Sheriff's Office report.

Trevino, who was contracted by McClure Farms out of Palmetto to have the crew work there, told deputies Alcime appeared tired and was stumbling earlier that day. She said she gave him water and ammonia inhalant, and she put ice on his neck because he was complaining of heat exhaustion.

Trevino told deputies she believed Alcime was better after assisting him, and she had him go on the bus back to Immokalee. She followed the bus in another vehicle. She told the deputies that when the bus arrived to Immokalee, at about 7 p.m. Tuesday, the workers told the driver that Alcime appeared to be sleeping on the ride, but that when they attempted to wake him, he was not responding or breathing.


The driver told Trevino and when she attempted to wake Alcime, she saw he wasn't breathing.

  
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# Comprehensive Heat Stress Monitoring



Actigraph monitor records physical activity and amount of movement

Cortemp monitor records the internal temperatures from the pill



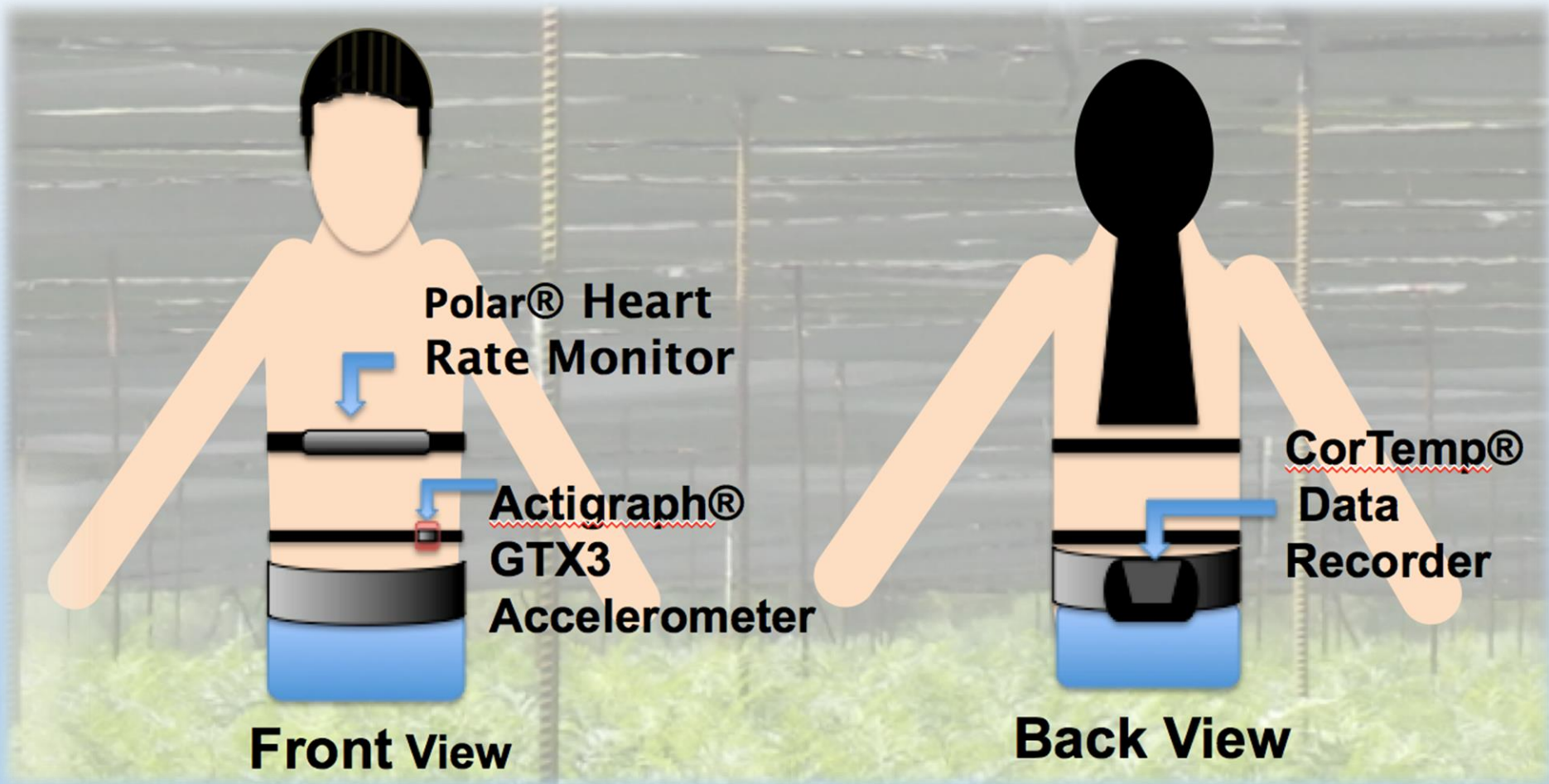
Heart rate monitor measures heart beats during work

Home monitor records the overnight temperatures from the home



iButton records the temperature and humidity at your workplace





# Demographics of Florida Farmworkers (n= 192); 2015-2016

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>n (%) or mean <math>\pm</math> sd</b>
<b>Age</b>	38.0 $\pm$ 8.2
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	76 (40%)
Female	116 (60%)
<b>Nationality</b>	
Mexico	124 (65%)
Guatemala	34 (16%)
Haiti	26 (13%)
United States	3 (2%)
Other	8 (4%)
<b>Years of education</b>	6.5 $\pm$ 3.5
<b>BMI</b>	
Male	27.9 $\pm$ 4.2
Female	29.2 $\pm$ 4.5

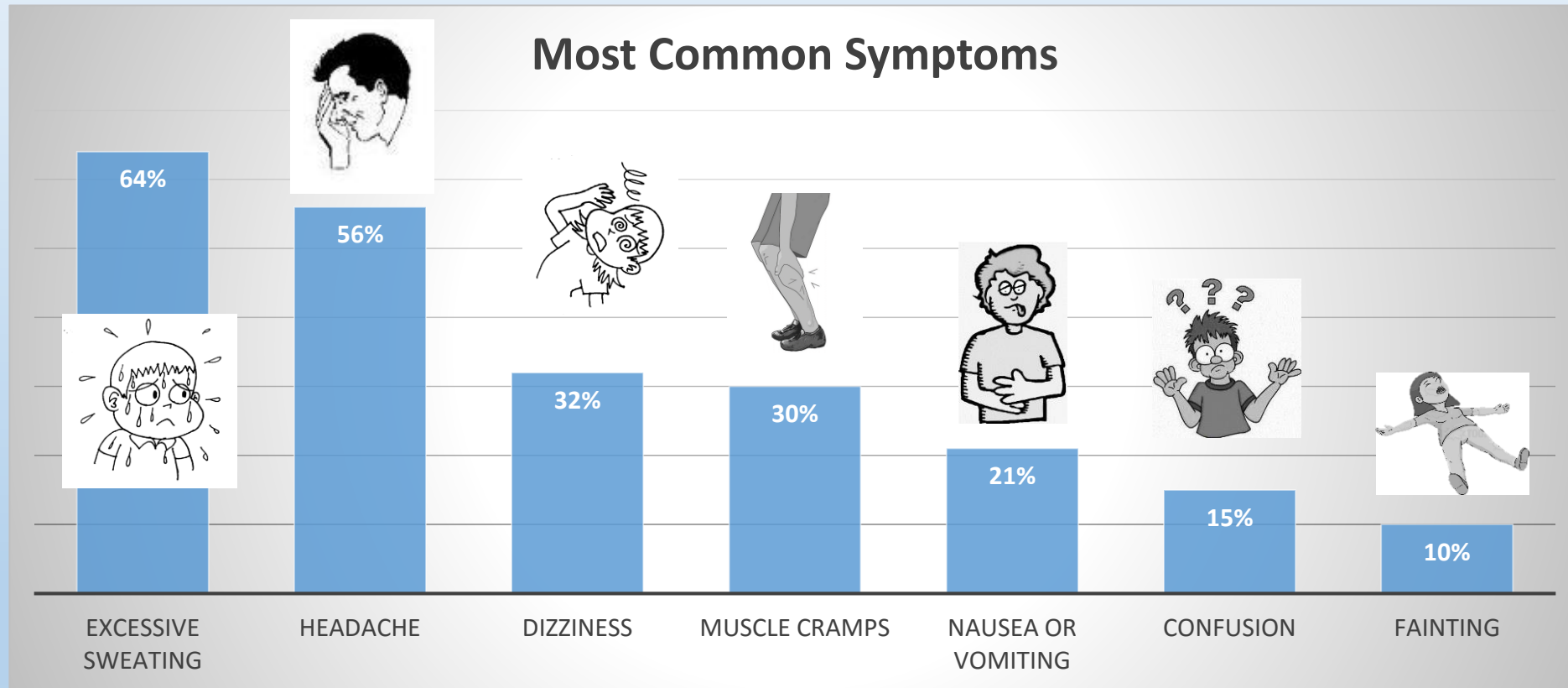
# Work Characteristics of Florida Farmworkers (n= 192); 2015-2016

<b>Work Characteristics</b>	<b>n (%) or mean <math>\pm</math> sd</b>
<b>Years worked in agriculture</b>	12.0 $\pm$ 7.8
<b>Hours worked per day</b>	7.5 $\pm$ 1.5
<b>Primary work type</b>	
Nursery	59 (31%)
Fernery	67 (35%)
Crop	66 (34%)
<b>Drink more of beverage at work during hot and humid weather</b>	
Water	188 (98%)
Sports drinks	132 (69%)
Soda	96 (50%)
Juice	74 (39%)
Energy drinks	31 (16%)
Coffee	18 (9%)
Alcohol	4 (2%)

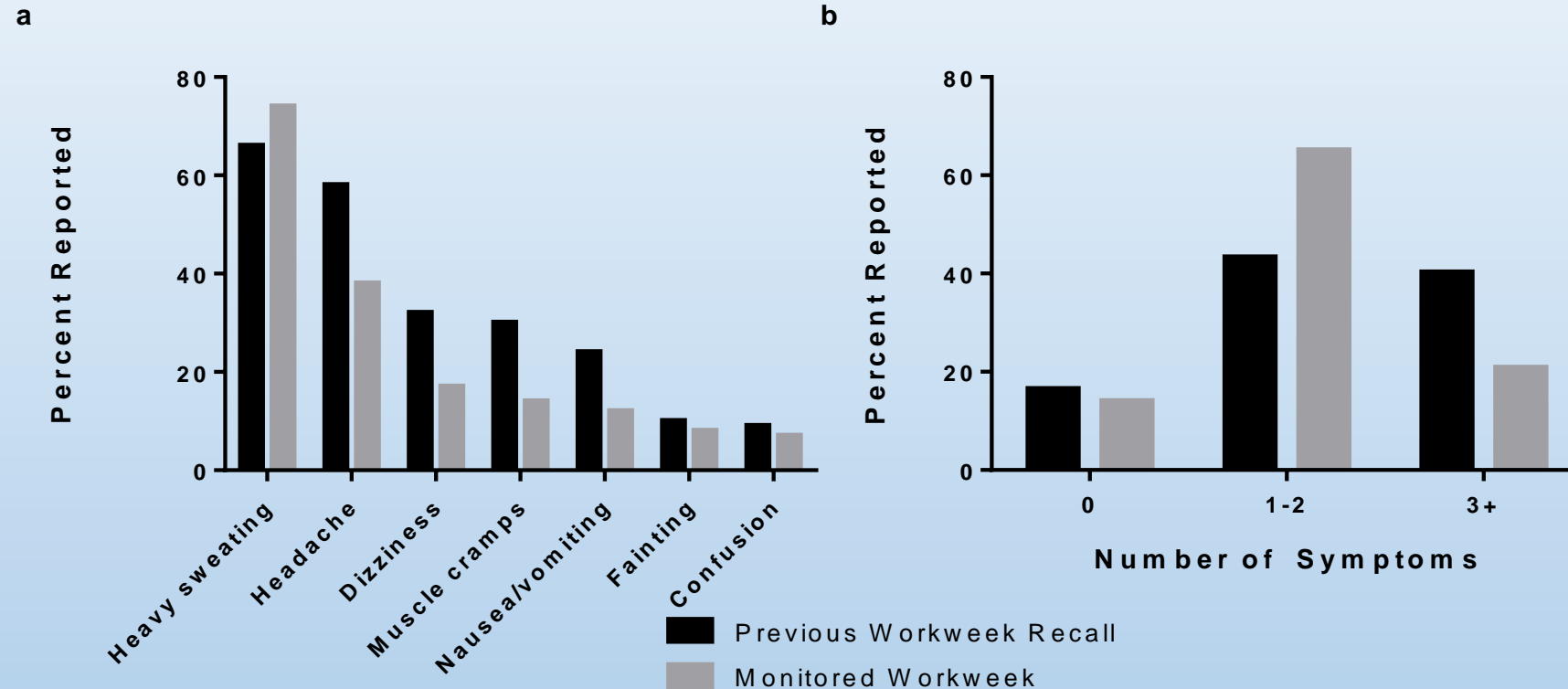
# Environmental Characteristics on Data Collection Days Across Three Florida Communities 2015-2016

<b>Environmental Characteristics</b>	<b>n (%) or mean <math>\pm</math> sd</b>
Ambient temperature ( $^{\circ}$ F)	84.4 $\pm$ 3.3
Relative Humidity (%)	73.9 $\pm$ 9.6
Mean Heat Index	91.8 $\pm$ 5.9

# Heat-related Illness: Symptoms

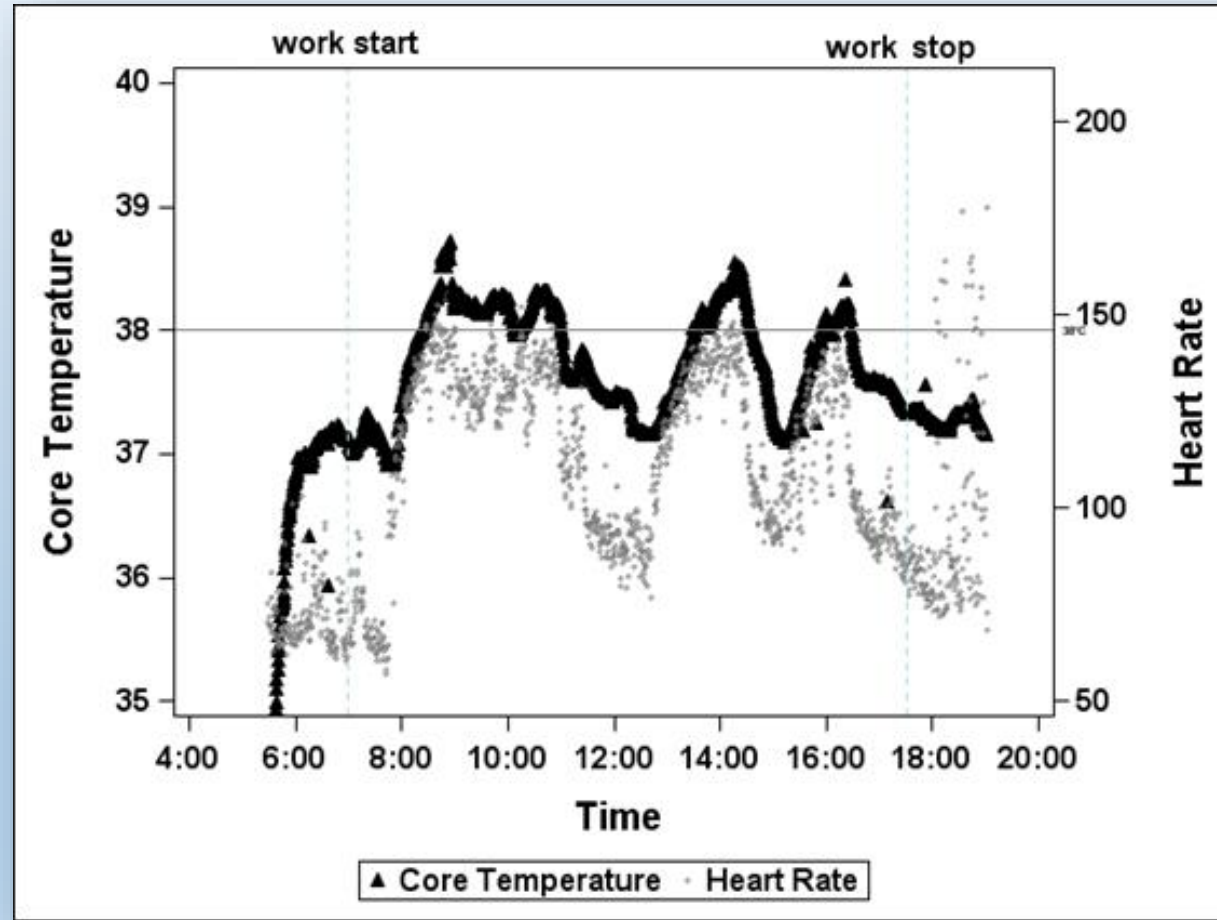


# Heat-related Illness: Monitored vs Recall



**Figure 1.** Frequencies of symptoms reported by farmworkers for previous workweek and during the monitored workweek. (a) By type of HRI symptom. (b) Distribution of 0, 1-2, or 3 or more symptoms

# Body Temperature & Heart Rate- Summer

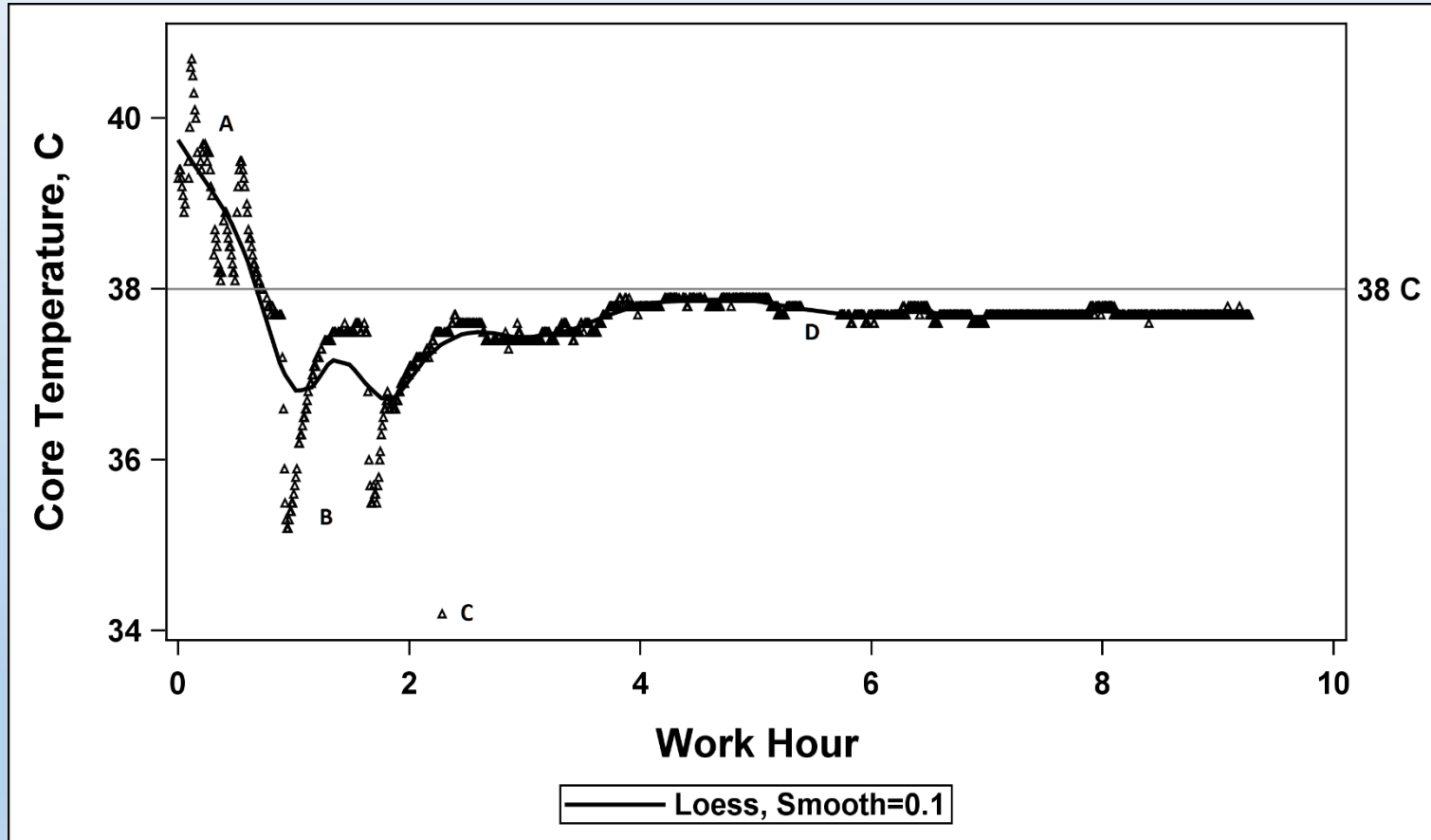


# Body Temperature & Heart Rate- Winter





# Core Body Temperature



△ = observation; — = estimated curve

## PHASE 1:

This graph shows several issues that commonly arise in our data:

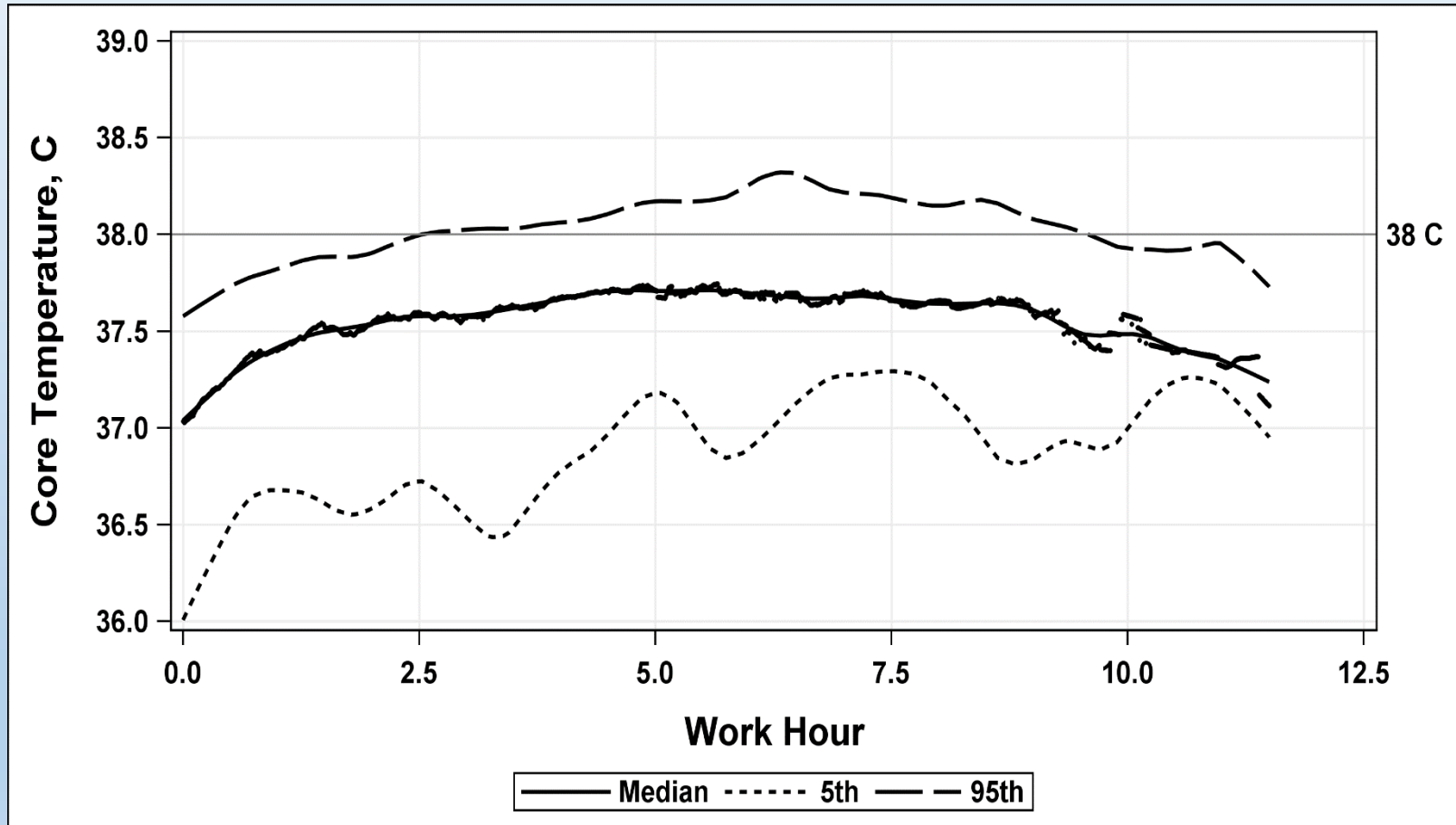
A- Bouncing ball effect

B- Rapid decline/recovery

C- Extreme values

D- Gaps

# Core Body Temperature

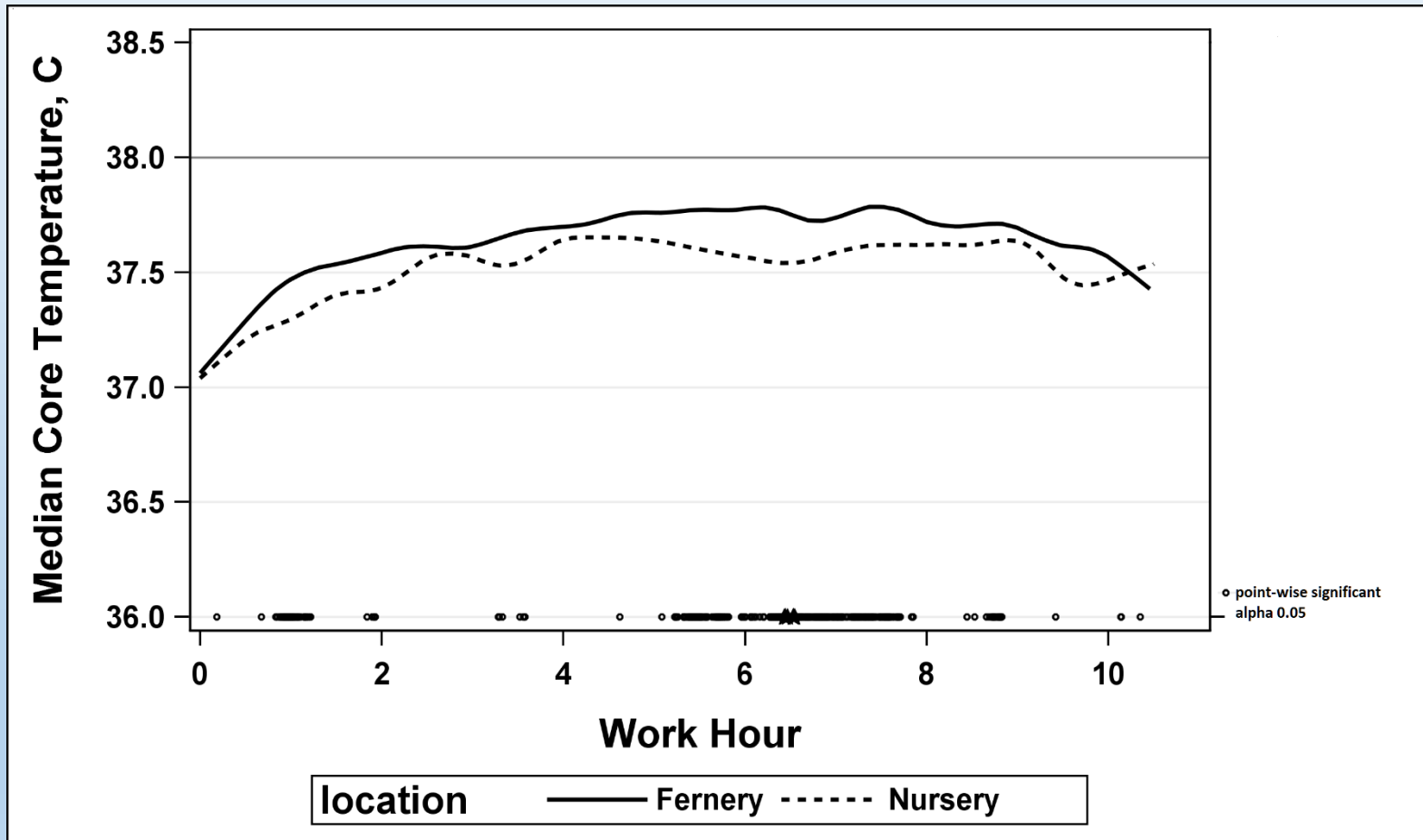


## PHASE 2:

Observations from multiple participants for each 30 second time point create a median core temperature estimate.

A smooth curve is generated by these point estimates.

# Core Body Temperature



## PHASE 3:

Comparison of median core temperatures for each 30 second time point during the workday.

Work hours 5-7 have the most occurrences when the difference between Fernery and Nursery core temperatures are significant.

# Dehydration Measures

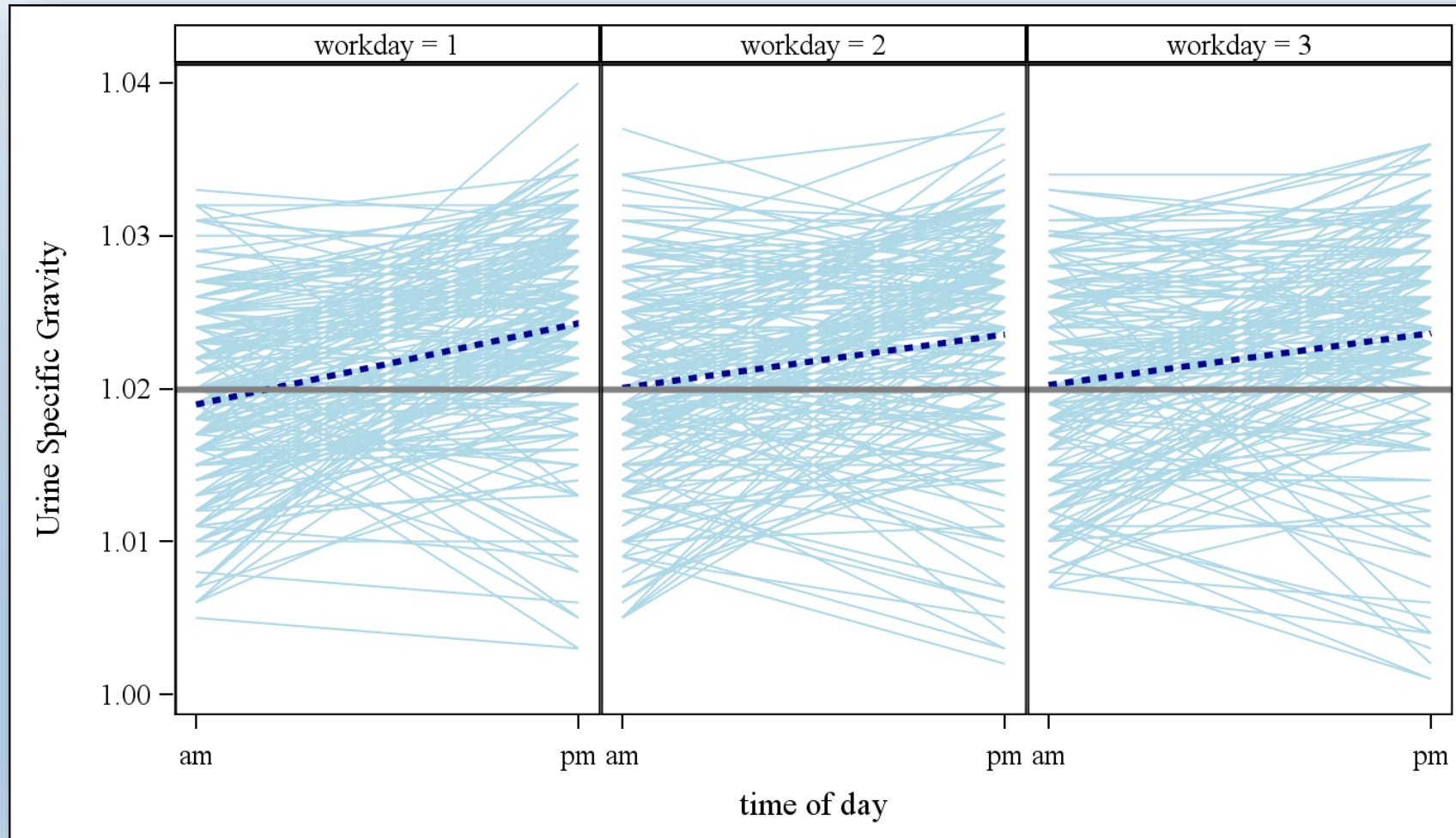
- Urine Specific Gravity

- Measure of solute concentration in urine
  - Comparison of water and urine density
  - Measure of kidney function and hydration status
  - USG  $\geq 1.020$  hypohydrated
  - 1.030 > clinically dehydrated

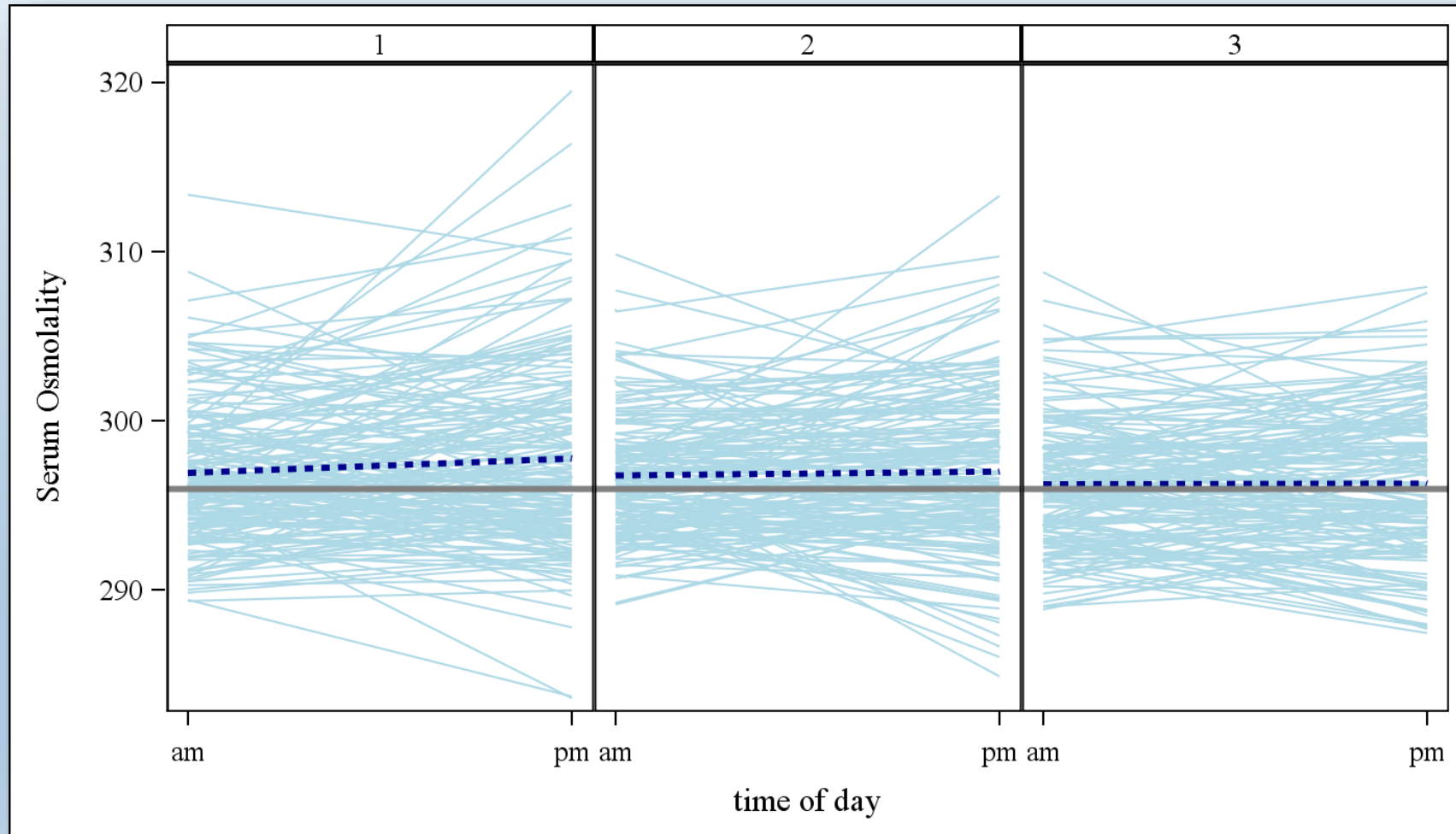
- Serum Osmolality

- Measure of chemicals dissolved in serum
  - Na<sup>+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, Bicarbonate, Proteins, Sugars
  - Increases with dehydration
  - 275 to 295 mOsm/kg
  - > 296 dehydrated

# Dehydration levels by urine specific gravity



# Dehydration levels by serum osmolality



# Hydration Status among Florida farmworkers; 2015-2016

Biomarker	Before Work <sup>1</sup> (n = 190 <sup>2</sup> )	After Work <sup>1</sup> (n=192)	P value <sup>3</sup>
USG, mean	1.019 ± 0.005	1.024 ± 0.006	<.0001
USG ≥ 1.020	53%	77%	<.0001
USG > 1.030	5%	15%	<.0001
Serum Osmolality, mean	296.7 ± 3.3	297.1 ± 4.1	.02
Serum Osm > 296	54%	53%	.9

<sup>1</sup>n participants for day 1 was n=192, day 2 was n=188 and day 3 was n=175

<sup>2</sup>based on 555 observations before work and 525 observations after work

<sup>3</sup>adjusted for number of days worked

# Kidney Function Markers among Florida farmworkers; 2015-2016

Biomarker	Before Work <sup>1</sup> (n = 190 <sup>2</sup> )	After Work <sup>1</sup> (n=192)	P value <sup>3</sup>
Serum Creatinine, mean	0.70 ± 0.21	0.81 ± 0.22	<.0001
eGFR, mean	114.6 ± 13.4	104.3 ± 16.5	<.0001
eGFR <90	5%	24%	<.0001
BUN, mean	14.6 ± 4.2	15.8 ± 4.5	<.0001
Serum Potassium, mean	4.4 ± 0.3	4.2 ± 0.4	.003
Serum Sodium, mean	140.9 ± 1.4	141.1 ± 1.7	<.0001

<sup>1</sup>n participants for day 1 was n=192, day 2 was n=188 and day 3 was n=175

<sup>2</sup>based on 555 observations before work and 525 observations after work

<sup>3</sup>adjusted for number of days worked



# Girasoles Community Engagement

- Dissemination of results to community
- Outreach to provide care for participants
- Training promotoras
- Community Advisory Board
- Health screenings
- Clinician handouts
- Focus groups



## Participants Health Education

- Body composition information (BMI, body fat)
- Blood pressure reading
- Approximate highest internal temperature
- On-site blood analysis reports

## Information Addresses

- Heat prevention practices
- Warning signs
- Recommended ranges for BMI and blood sugar

**Body Mass Index BMI**  
<18.5 Underweight  
18.5-24.9 Normal  
25-29.9 Overweight  
30+ Obese

**Diabetes is a disease where too much sugar in the body leads to health problems**  
**Recommended blood sugar level <200**



## Heat Stress Warning Signs

Heavy Sweating  
Fast Breathing  
Weakness  
Dizziness  
Fatigue  
Nausea/Vomiting  
Cramps

## Control & Prevention

Remain in normal BMI  
Lose 7% body weight (for BMI>25)  
Avoid sugary foods  
Exercise 30min 5 days/week  
See your doctor if experiencing symptoms

## What To Do

Relocate to cooler, shaded area  
Sit down  
Drink water or sports drink  
Fan and apply cool water to body

## Índice de masa corporal

<18.5 Bajo de peso  
18.5-24.9 Normal  
25-29.9 Sobrepeso  
30+ Obesidad

La diabetes es una enfermedad en la que el exceso de azúcar en el cuerpo conduce a problemas de salud.

Azúcar en la sangre recomendada <200

## Endèks Mas Kò

<18.5 Mèg  
18.5 - 24.9 Nòmàl  
25 - 29.9 Twò gwo  
30+ obèz

Dyabèt se yon maladi kote twòp sik nan kò a mennen lot pwoblèm sante

Nivo sik nan san rekòmande < 200

## El estrés por calor señales de advertencia:

### Control y Prevención

Mantenga un peso (IMC) normal  
Perder 7% del peso corporal (For BMI > 25)  
Evitar los alimentos azucarados  
Ejercitar 30 minutos 5 días a la semana  
Consulte a su médico si experimenta síntomas de insolacion

Sudor excesivo  
Respiración rápida  
Debilidad  
Mareos  
Fatiga  
Náuseas  
Vómitos  
Calambres

### Qué hacer

Trasladarse a una zona más fresca o con sombra  
Sentarse  
Beber agua o bebidas deportivas  
Ventile y aplique agua fría al cuerpo



## Avètisman siy estrès chalè

Swe anpil  
Respire rapid  
Feblès  
Vètij  
Fatig  
Kè plen Vomisman

## Kontwòl ak prevansyon

Rete nan nòmàl EMK  
Pèdi 7% nan pwa kò  
Evite manje ki gen sik  
Egzèse 30 minit senk jou nan yon semèn  
Konsilte doktè ou si experimante sentòm

## Kisa pou fe

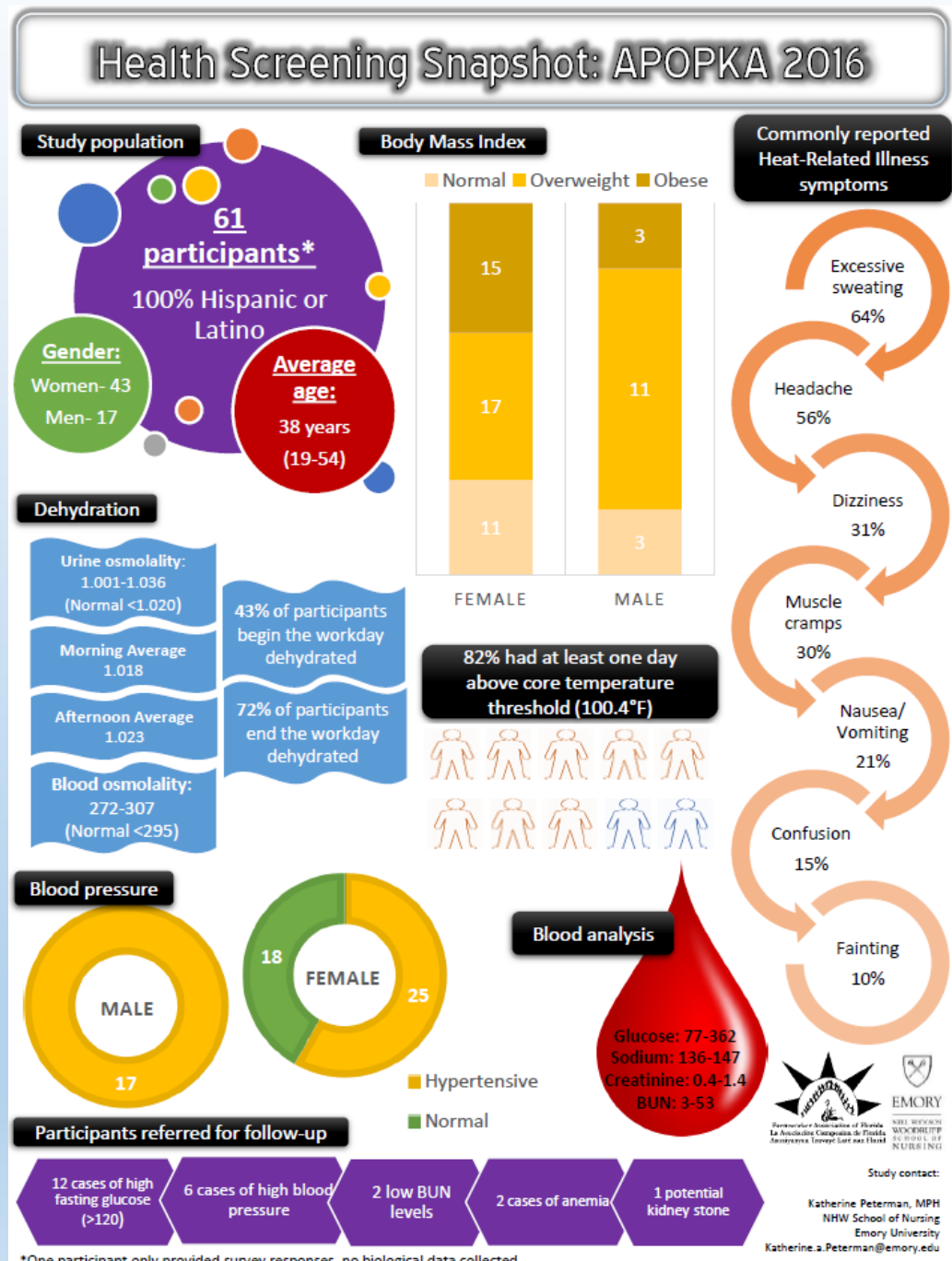
deplase nan pi fre, zòn fonsè chita  
bwè dlo oswa espò bwè fanatik ak aplike dlo fre nan kò

## Farmworker Community Demographics

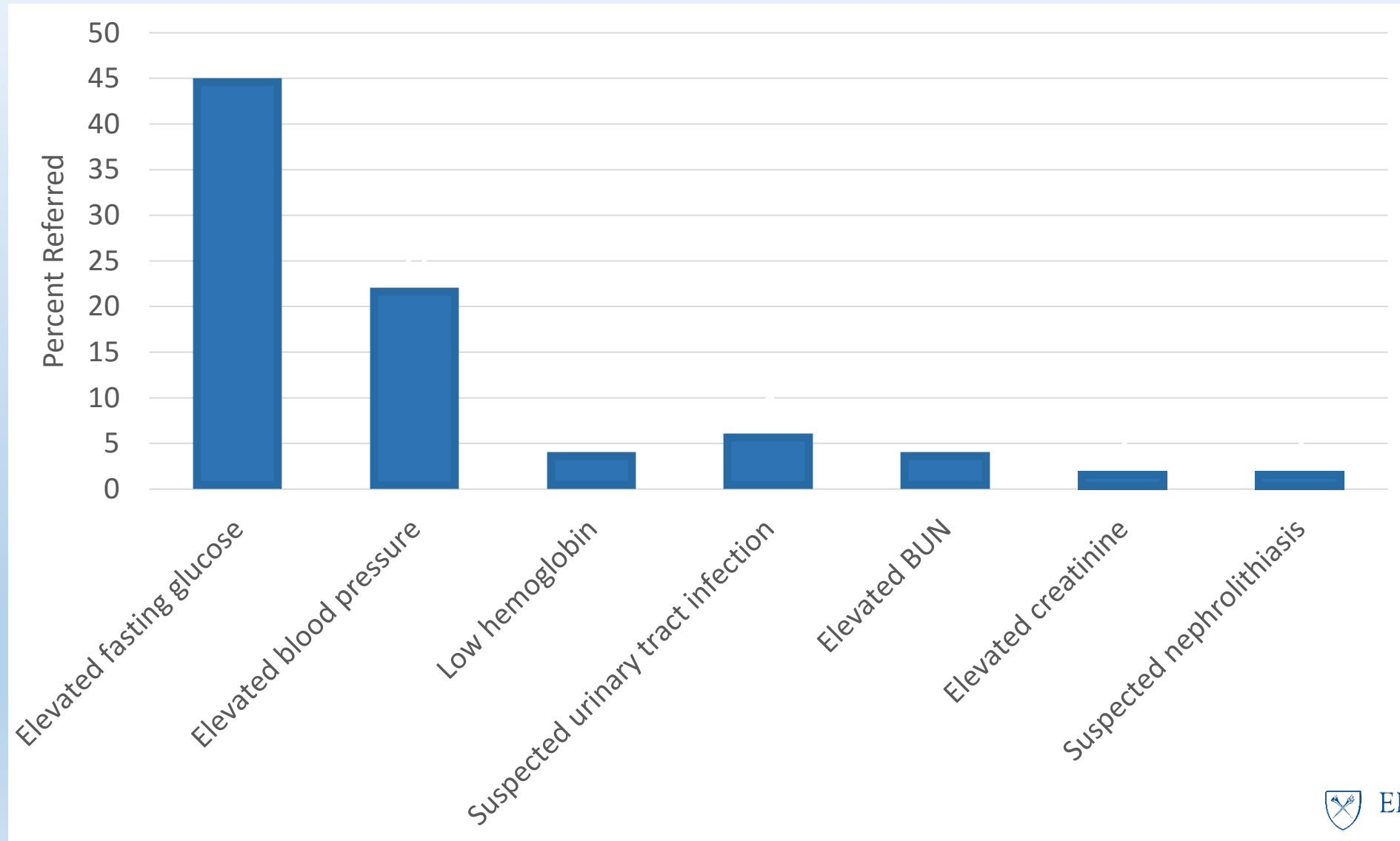
- Age
- Gender
- Race/Ethnicity

## Farmworker Risk Factors

- BMI
- Blood pressure
- Serum analysis
- Max core temperature during workday
- Average dehydration levels
- Reported HRI symptoms



# Participant Referrals In Apopka Summer 2016



# Future Directions

- Interventions, interventions, interventions...
- Mesoamerican Nephropathy



# Acknowledgements

- Farmworkers Association of Florida
  - Jeannie Economos
  - Joan Flocks, JD
  - Antonio Tovar-Aguilar, PhD
  - Nezahualcoyotl Xiuhtecutli, MS
- Emory University
  - Roxana Chicas, BSN, RN
  - Lisa Elon, MS
  - Vicki Hertzberg, PhD, FASA, P. Stat
  - Valerie Mac, PhD, RN
  - Jacqueline Mix, PhD, MPH
  - Abby Mutic, MSN
  - Nathan Mutic, MS, MAT, MEd
- Funders
  - NIOSH R01OH010657
  - NIOSH R21 OH009830-01



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# Appendix

# Serum creatinine

- 31% of participants had at least one workday with serum creatinine above sex-specific limits OR an increase of  $\geq 0.3$  mg/dL on at least one workday
- Sex specific limits:
  - Males:  $>1.3$  mg/dL
  - Females:  $>1.1$  mg/dL

# Acute Kidney Injury (AKI)

- Kidney Disease Improving Global Health Outcomes (KDIGO) criteria is based on serum creatinine change

<b>AKI present</b>	Increase of post-shift serum creatinine by at least 0.3 mg/dL OR ≥ 1.5 times the pre-shift creatinine
<b>AKI stage 1</b>	≥ 0.3 mg/dL increase in serum creatinine OR 1.5 to 1.9 times the pre-shift creatinine
<b>AKI stage 2</b>	2.0 to 2.9 times the pre-shift creatinine
<b>AKI stage 3</b>	≥ 3.0 times the pre-shift creatinine

# AKI in Girasoles

## Presence of AKI:

- 33% of participants had the criteria indicating AKI on at least one workday
  - 28% on one workday
  - 4% on two workdays
  - 1% on three workdays

## Stages of AKI:

- 26% had **stage 1 AKI** on at least one workday; 3% on two; 0.5% on three
- 3% had **stage 2 AKI** on at least one workday
- 0.5% had **stage 3 AKI** on at least one workday

# Normal ranges/cutoff value for hydration and kidney markers

MARKER	Normal Range/Cutoff value for Adults
<b>Hydration markers</b>	
Urine specific gravity (USG)	USG <1.015: euhydrated
Serum osmolality	275-295 mOsm/kg
<b>Kidney function markers</b>	
Serum creatinine	Males: <1.1 mg/dL Females: <1.3 mg/dL
Estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR)	>90 ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>
Blood urea nitrogen (BUN)	10-20 mg/dL
Serum potassium	3.5 – 5.2 mEq/L or 3.5 – 5.2 mmol/L
Serum sodium	136 – 145 mEq/L