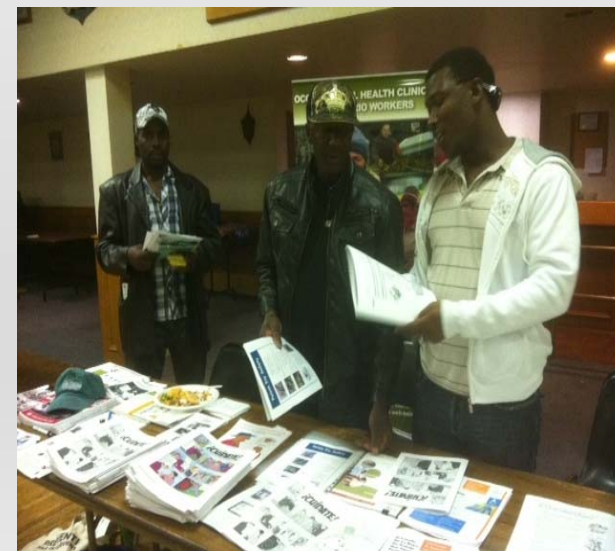




Migrant Farm Worker Program





Overview of OHCOW's MFW program

- ❖ Recognizing the need
- ❖ Clinical Work
- ❖ Prevention based workshops and knowledge transfers
- ❖ Identifying and developing effective resources and tools
- ❖ Employer directed outreach
- ❖ Collaborative partnerships, projects and research
- ❖ Work with other underserviced/ vulnerable worker communities

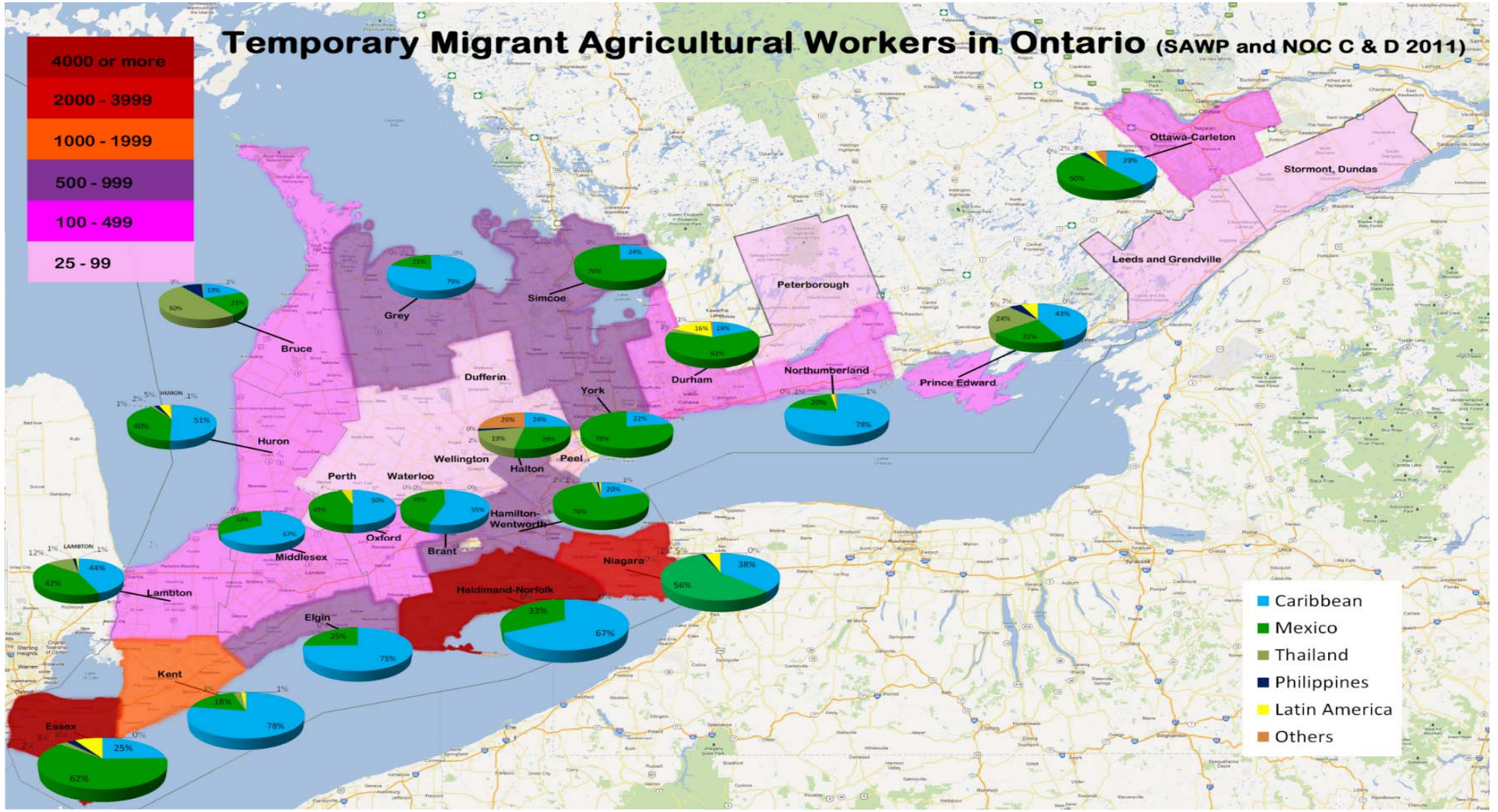
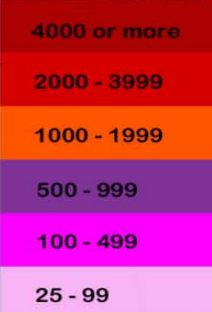


Figure 19 - One of the first groups of Jamaican workers in Niagara (circa 1967)



McLaughlin 2009

Temporary Migrant Agricultural Workers in Ontario (SAWP and NOC C & D 2011)





Migrant Farm Workers and Occupational Health and Safety: Recognizing the need for an outreach program

- ❖ High hazard industry
- ❖ Socio-economic and demographic character of this worker population
- ❖ Precarious nature of employment and established fear of jeopardizing their work status
- ❖ Limited access to health system
- ❖ Unfamiliarity and limited access to occupational health and safety system, MOL or WSIB



Migrant Farm Workers and Occupational Health and Safety: Recognizing the need for an outreach program



- ❖ Health and safety training for this group sporadic, or inappropriate.
- ❖ Programs and resources not effectively addressing language, literacy, cultural considerations, or worker intimidation to raise concerns.
- ❖ Experience and needs of this worker group largely not reflected in industry focused programs and strategies or in evaluations of the effectiveness of interventions.
- ❖ Experiences and needs of these workers slow to be reflected in local service programs and resources.



OHCOW's Migrant Farm Worker Program

- ❖ Minor involvement with migrant farm workers in mid-1990s and early 2000s in Leamington area.
- ❖ 2006 OHCOW Hamilton clinic began MFW focus as a project.
- ❖ 2014 received permanent program funding.



OHCOW's MFW program team

- ❖ Murray Lawrence (Occupational Hygienist)
- ❖ Michelle Tew (Occupational Health Nurse)
- ❖ Curtis VanderGriendt (Ergonomist)
- ❖ Michael Pysklywec (Occupational Health Physician)
- ❖ Donald Cole (Occupational Health Physician)
- ❖ Willem van Heiningen (Physician)
- ❖ Mary Falconer (Occupational Health Nurse)–now retired

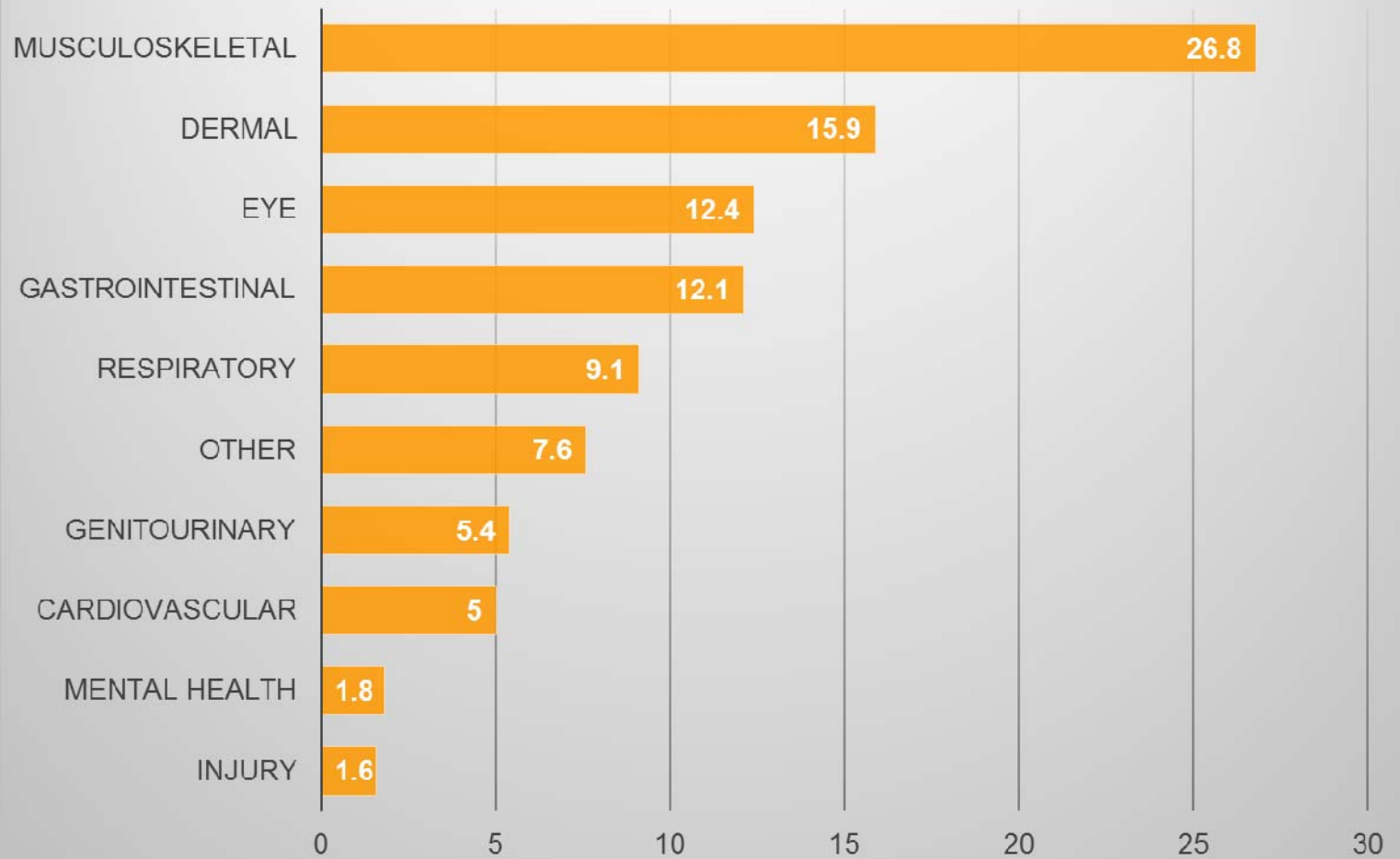


OHCOW MFW Clinics

- ❖ In collaboration with community partners
- ❖ Time and location accessible to workers.



Frequency of MFW Health Conditions by System (%) (N=1058, 2007-14)



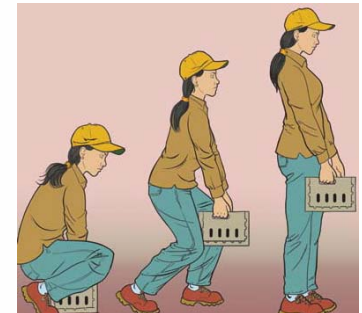
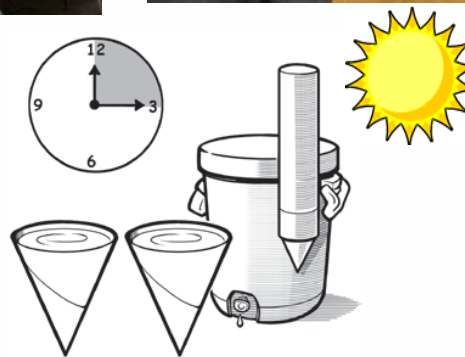


Collaboration with primary health clinics

- ❖ Supported successful LHIN funding request to establish two CHC run migrant farm worker clinics (Simcoe, Niagara).
- ❖ Provide occupational health support to these clinics.



Prevention based workshops



Eye Health and Safety Workshop



Resources and Tools

- ❖ Identify and develop useful resources and tools that take into consideration language, literacy and cultural appropriateness.
- ❖ Distribute these resources extensively and directly to migrant farm worker communities.
- ❖ Distribute relevant resources directly to employers.
- ❖ Share resources with primary health clinics.



Employer directed outreach



Muck Conference

64th Annual Muck Vegetable Growers Conference

Wednesday, April 8–Thursday April 9, 2015



Collaboration and Partnerships



- ❖ Service provider committees
- ❖ Community Health Centres
- ❖ Government Ministries
- ❖ Labour associations
- ❖ Growers/ Employer associations
- ❖ Educational and training programs
- ❖ Research institutions
- ❖ Cultural groups



Ontario Pesticide Education Program (OPEP)



- ❖ Collaborated to train 4 Spanish speakers to be OPEP farmer assistant trainers.
- ❖ Translating and re-formatting OPEP educational poster series.
- ❖ Interest in joint development of field worker/ non-sprayer awareness training.
- ❖ Interest in introducing key, MFW supportive messaging into mandatory employer pesticide safety training.

Ontario Pesticide Education Program | Protecting Human and Environmental Health through Certification and Training



Research and Research opportunities



- ❖ Program accumulates a wide range of data
- ❖ Program activities create wide range of opportunities for research
- ❖ Eye health and safety intervention research

Identifying opportunities to work with other underserved communities





1877.817.0336 ext. 2221 or 2223

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