

Household Composition of Families Eligible for Migrant and Seasonal Head Start

Findings from the 2012-2016 National Agricultural Workers Survey



OPRE Report #2019-48



Purpose

This brief describes the household composition of migrant and seasonally laboring families who are eligible for MSHS. These families may or may not be enrolled in MSHS at the time that they were surveyed.

Understanding the composition of migrant and seasonal farmworker families and households may identify some areas of focus for MSHS programs who serve families.

Key Findings

- The average MSHS-eligible household is comprised of 4.7 people.
- 55% percent of families eligible for MSHS have five or more relatives living together in the household.
- 84% of families eligible for MSHS have more than one child living in the household.
- 46% of families eligible for MSHS have more than one child under age 6 living in the household.

Methods

This brief uses data from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration 2012-2016 National Agricultural Worker Survey (NAWS). The NAWS collects data annually on a national sample of crop farmworkers in the continental United States (U.S.). The NAWS uses field survey methods developed and refined for this predominantly migrant and seasonal farmworker population.

In this brief, families are defined as a group of relatives related by birth, marriage, or adoption. Relatives often live together in a household, in which unrelated adults and children may also live.

Sample

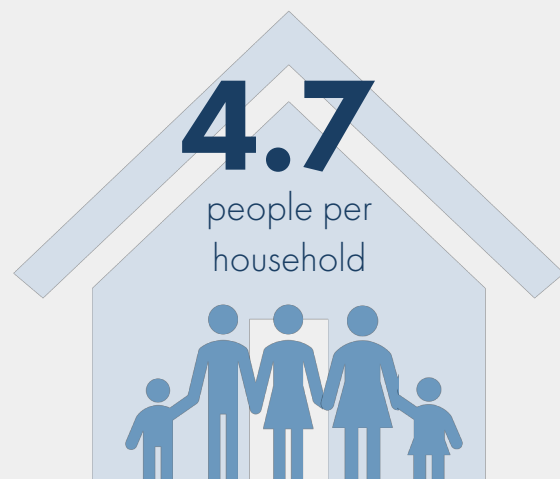
This brief describes all MSHS-eligible families and their households, including both those who have received MSHS services and those who have not.

Families described in this brief as MSHS eligible include a subsample of the full NAWS sample that have (1) at least one child under the age of six, (2) a total income below 100 percent of the federal poverty level for their household size, and (3) more than 50 percent of their income earned from agricultural work. MSHS defines farm work as “agricultural work that involves the production and harvesting of tree and field crop.”

Findings

Who lives in households that are eligible for MSHS?

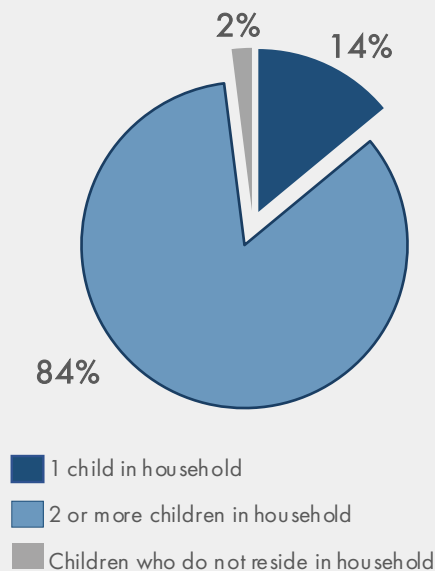
On average, a total of 4.7 people live in households that include MSHS-eligible families. Families eligible for MSHS have an average of 2.7 children and 80% of families include a married spouse.



Findings

How many children live in MSHS-eligible households?

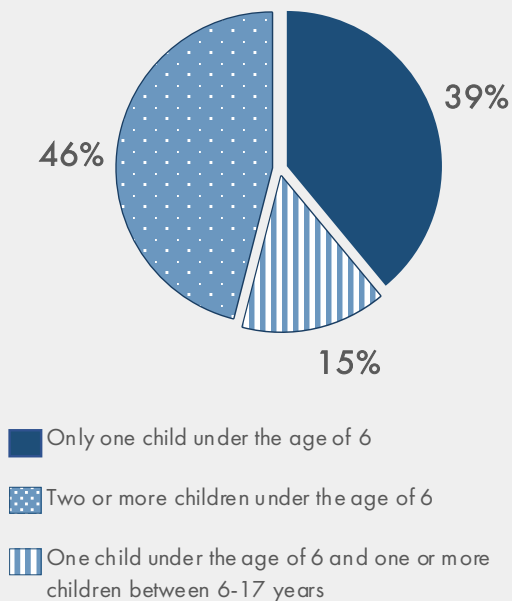
Number of Children in MSHS-Eligible Households



- Families that have children tend to have more than just one child.
- Eighty-four percent of MSHS-eligible families have two or more children living in the household.
- Only 14% of MSHS-eligible families have just one child in the household.
- There were no differences in number of children per farmworker by geographic region.

How old are children in MSHS-eligible households?

Age of Children in MSHS-Eligible Households

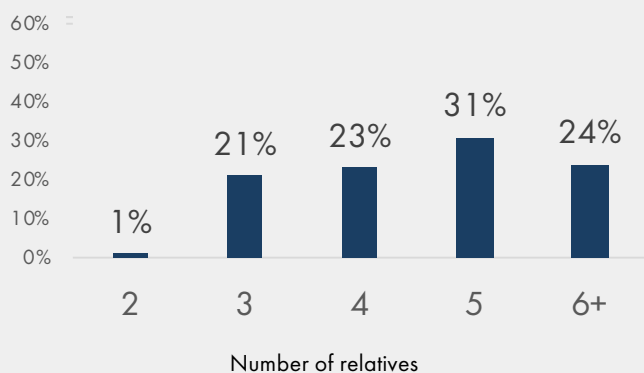


- In order to be eligible for MSHS, families must have at least one child under the age of six living in the household.
- Thirty-nine percent of families have only one child under the age of six living in the household.
- Fifteen percent of families eligible for MSHS have more than one child under the age of six living in the home.
- Forty-six percent of families have one child under 6 years old and one or more children between the ages of 6-17 years old living in the household.

Findings

How many relatives live in households that are eligible for MSHS?

Number of relatives in MSHS-eligible households



- Few families (1%) of families eligible for MSHS have only two relatives living in the household. One-third (31%) of MSHS-eligible households have 5 relatives and one-quarter (24%) have 6 or more relatives living in the household.



This brief was prepared by Amanda K. Gatewood, Ph.D., under a Society for Research in Child Development fellowship supported by an OPRE grant. This brief relies on data collected and analyzed as part of the 2012-2016 National Agricultural Workers Survey conducted by JBS International, working with ETA/DOL. The ACF Project Officer is Wendy DeCoursey. For additional information visit: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/project/migrant-and-seasonal-head-start-supplement-to-the-national-agricultural>.

This brief is in the public domain. Permission to reproduce is not necessary. Suggested citation: Gatewood, A.K. (2019). Household Composition of Families Eligible for Migrant and Seasonal Head Start: Findings from the 2012-2016 National Agricultural Workers Survey, OPRE Report #2019-48, Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Other reports sponsored by the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation are available at www.acf.hhs.gov/opre.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, the Administration for Children and Families, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.