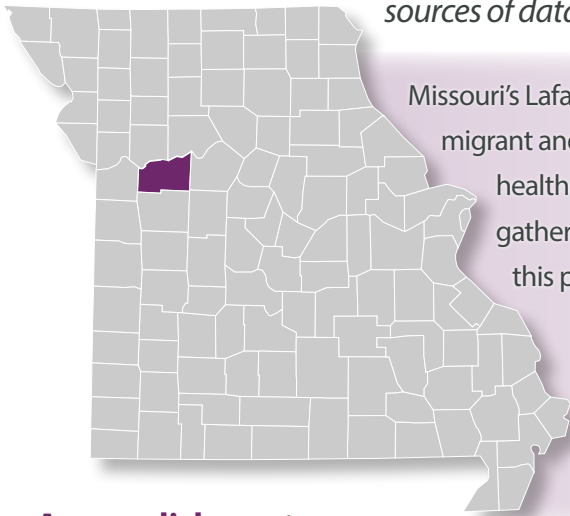


### A Collaboration to Meet the Health Needs of Migrant Workers

Patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) and comparative effectiveness research (CER) are important sources of data to inform local population health decisions.



Missouri's Lafayette County Health Department (LCHD) was a partner in a PCOR/CER study on migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their preferences and needs as it relates to healthcare decisions and effective methods of engagement. The research project gathered, analyzed, and presented data on the facilitators, barriers, and motivators that this population experiences as they seek and obtain healthcare.

*"The health department's job is to assure a healthy lifestyle and health within the population. [PCOR/CER] helps us reach that. Special populations are sometimes harder to reach and get to participate in things, so any way we can build relationships to improve that is good."*

– Former LCHD staff member

#### Accomplishments

1) A **review of the literature**; 2) Execution and analysis of **two surveys** for collecting farmworker views (one for direct service providers of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and one for other key stakeholders); 3) Formation of a **research agenda** to guide researchers, funders, providers, and policymakers; and 4) Creation of a **video** that promotes farmworkers' views. The project also sought to directly engage migrant and seasonal farmworkers to obtain their perspectives on what information they believe doctors need to better understand and serve them as a group.<sup>1</sup>

#### Value of PCOR/CER

##### Building relationships with, and addressing needs of, migrant population.



PCOR and CER gave LCHD a unique opportunity to build a relationship with the migrant and seasonal farmworkers community and learn more about their perspectives and needs. This effort enabled the health department to address some of their barriers to health. Because this population could not participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) due to their work schedules, for example, the health department made special arrangements to offer the program during additional days and times that would be more compatible with the community's availability.

##### Strengthening connections with diverse partners including academic institutions.

LCHD also found that PCOR and CER were helpful to build and strengthen relationships with other stakeholders, especially with universities. Although cultural differences between research and practice settings can be a challenge,<sup>2</sup> LCHD found the partnership valuable. Such relationships between health departments and academic institutions are not only required for accreditation, but also can be critical to providing health departments with much needed research support and expertise.



##### Gathering and using local data.

LCHD emphasized that local health data can be very challenging to obtain. Because the organization strives to make data-informed decisions, opportunities to collect local-level data through PCOR and CER can be incredibly valuable.

## Key Stakeholders

- **University and community partners.** Staff from the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare led the project with the Migrant Farmworkers Assistance Fund serving as the community co-lead.
- **Lafayette County Health Department** was invited by the project leads to primarily serve as the convener of different stakeholders.
- **Survey respondents** representing perspectives of a community, a state, a U.S. region, or a national/international perspective.
- **Migrant and seasonal farmworkers.**



## Facilitators and Barriers to PCOR and/or CER

- **Facilitators:** LCHD appreciated the organized and effective management of the project by the University of Kansas Center for Research, which resulted in productive meetings and several finished deliverables. Additionally, conducting research on a topic that is relevant to the health department's goals and programming facilitated participation in PCOR and CER.
- **Barrier:** Given the geographic locations of each stakeholder, distance to meetings were a barrier for some.

## References

[1] Engaging Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in Healthcare Research, 27 Dec. 2019, [www.pcori.org/research-results/2017/engaging-migrant-and-seasonal-farmworkers-healthcare-research](http://www.pcori.org/research-results/2017/engaging-migrant-and-seasonal-farmworkers-healthcare-research).

[2] Building Capacity to Apply Patient-Centered Outcomes Research and Comparative Effectiveness Research Findings Through Local Health Departments. National Association of County & City Health Officials. Sep. 2020

### At A Glance

Health Department Name	Lafayette County Health Department
Health Department Location	Lafayette County, Missouri
Health Department Size	Small (serves <50,000 people)
Health Department Setting	Rural
Project Description	Engaging migrant and seasonal farmworkers in healthcare research
Project Funder	Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)
Health Department Role	Project stakeholder
Facilitators and Barriers to PCOR and/or CER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Facilitator:</b> organized and effective project management by project lead(s)</li> <li>• <b>Barrier:</b> distance to meetings for some stakeholders</li> </ul>
Value of PCOR and/or CER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCOR and CER provide an opportunity to:</li> <li>• Build relationships with, and address the needs of, hard-to-reach vulnerable populations</li> <li>• Collaborate with diverse stakeholders in the community, including academic institutions that can provide valuable research expertise and support</li> <li>• Collect and utilize local-level data</li> </ul>