

ABSTRACT: Farm workers of Mexican or Central American origin comprise a significant percentage of the U.S. agricultural workforce. Concerns regarding barriers to health care are increasingly garnering attention in the Northeast region of the United States as the number of Latino dairy farm workers increases. In Vermont, there are an estimated 1,200-1,500 Latino farmworkers who comprise a small, isolated, and underserved population (Baker, 2013). Despite the growing Latino population nationwide and albeit small increase in Latinos in the state, Vermont continues to be the second least racially/ethnically diverse state in the nation with 1.6% identifying as of Hispanic or Latino origin (Humes, Jones, & Ramirez, 2011; U.S. Census Bureau, 2011). As a result, students in Vermont who plan to work in the health arena do not have many opportunities to interact with this demographic. A service learning program is being developed in an effort to address health education and prevention needs of Vermont Latino farmworkers while, at the same time, teaching graduate nursing students about the community. The aim of this study will be to explore in what way, if any, service learning experiences with the Latino dairy farmworker population in a rural, northeastern community of the United States impact graduate nursing students' cultural awareness. Students in this discipline connect with this population through graduate nursing classes and/or a short-term Healthcare and Culture immersion course. Students from a northeastern university in the United States who participate in service learning will be surveyed pre- and post- outreach activities. Qualitative methods will be used to describe the setting, population, plan for data collection, steps to ensure trustworthiness, and plan for data analysis.