

# Research findings relevant to complications facing Latino Dairy Farmworkers in Vermont

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# Research data

Three data sets:

## Statewide public opinion poll (Vermont Poll)

- Representative sample (Surveys between 550 to 650 residents)
- Questions about dairy labor from 2010 to 2020

## Dairy Farmworker Surveys

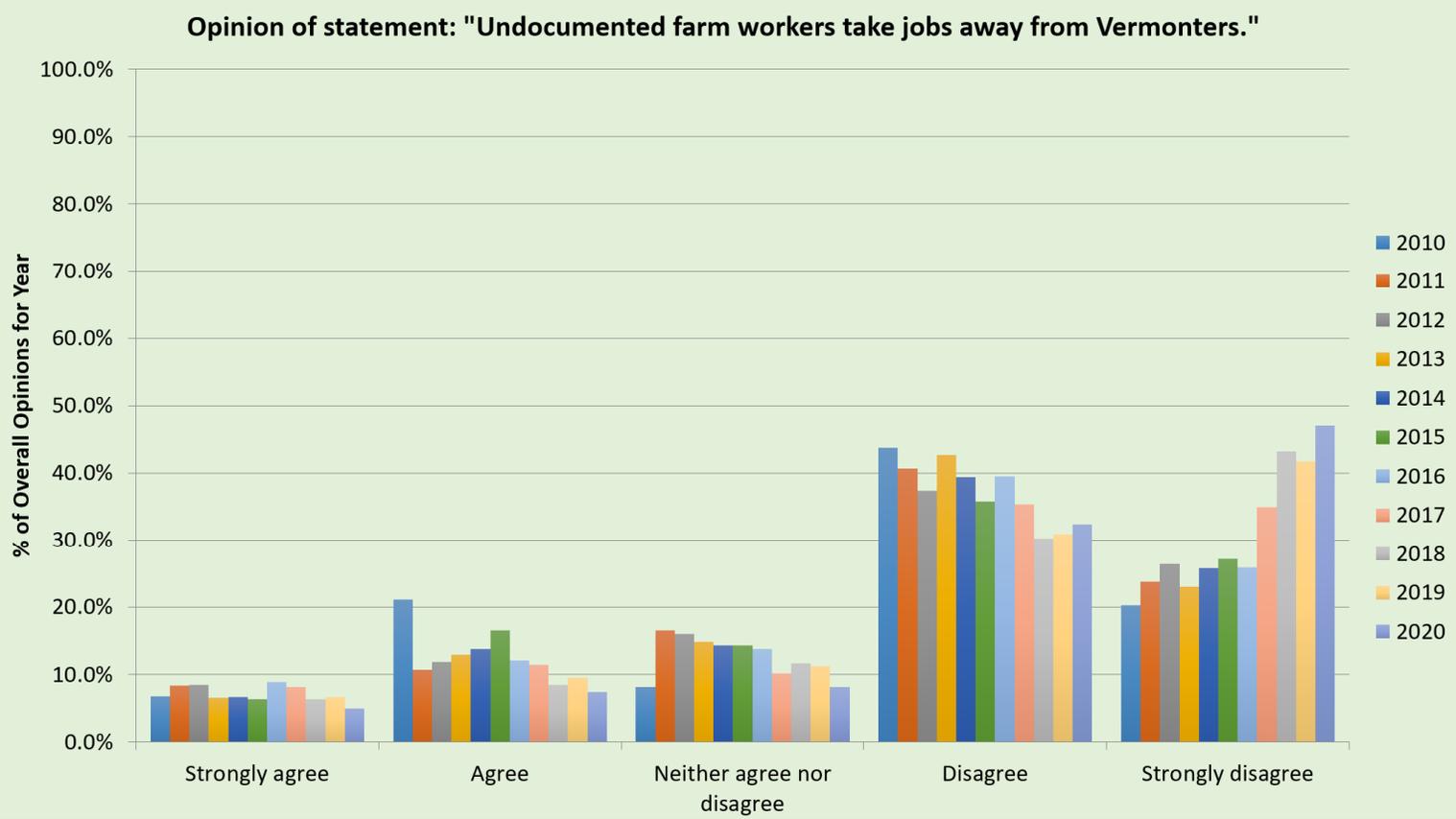
- Dairy workers characteristics & Latino migrant health (2010, 120 workers surveyed)
- Latino migrant stress (2016, 173 Latino farmworkers surveyed)

## Dairy Farmer Surveys

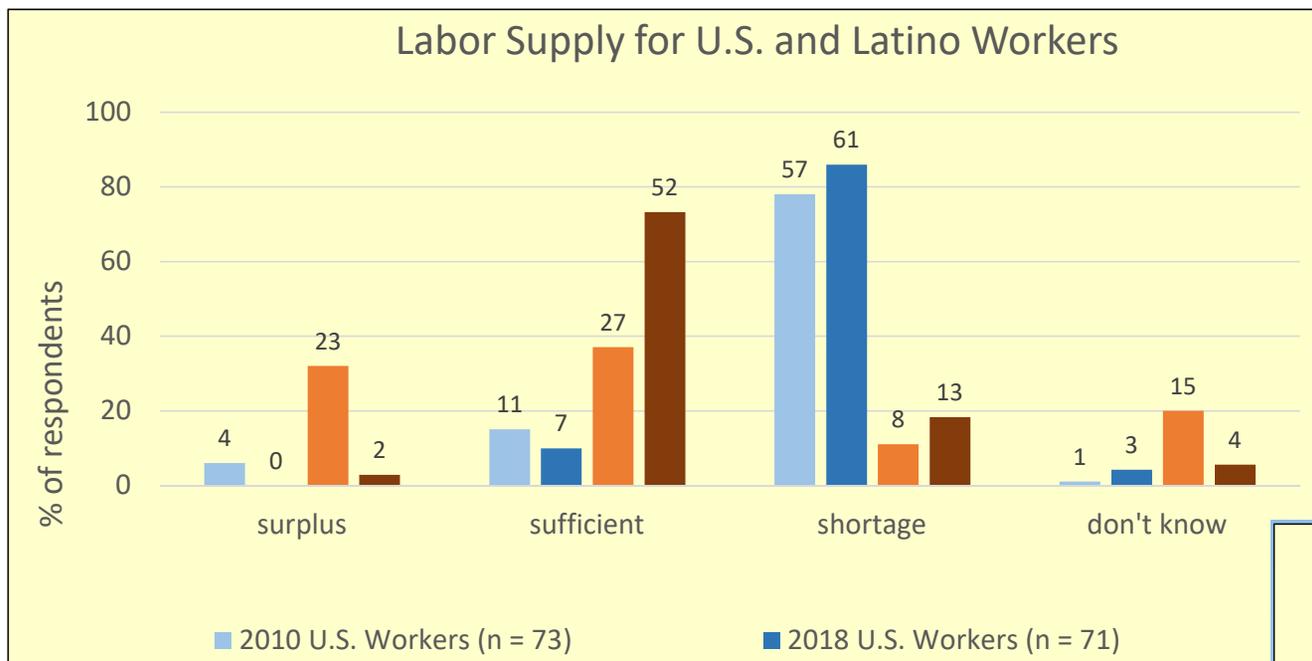
Dairy Farmer Perspective on US and Migrant Farm Labor

- Only dairy farms that employ non-family labor
- 2010,: 73 farms statewide
- 2018 : 71 farms statewide

# Vermont Poll

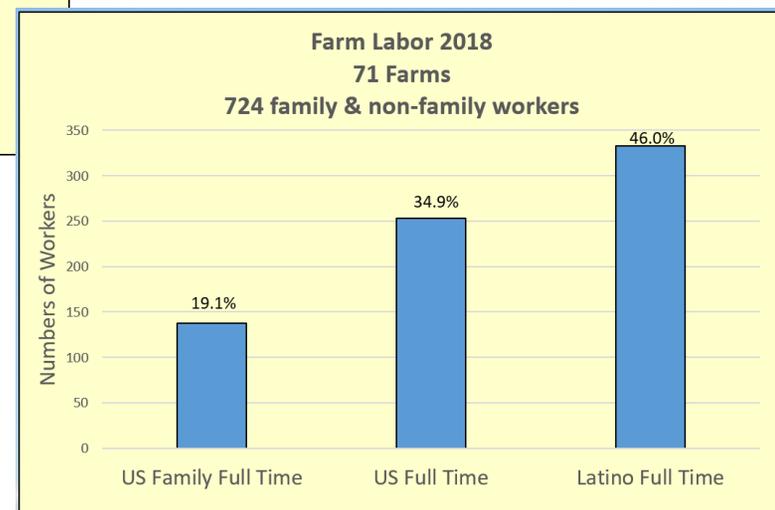


## Farmer Surveys (2010 and 2018)



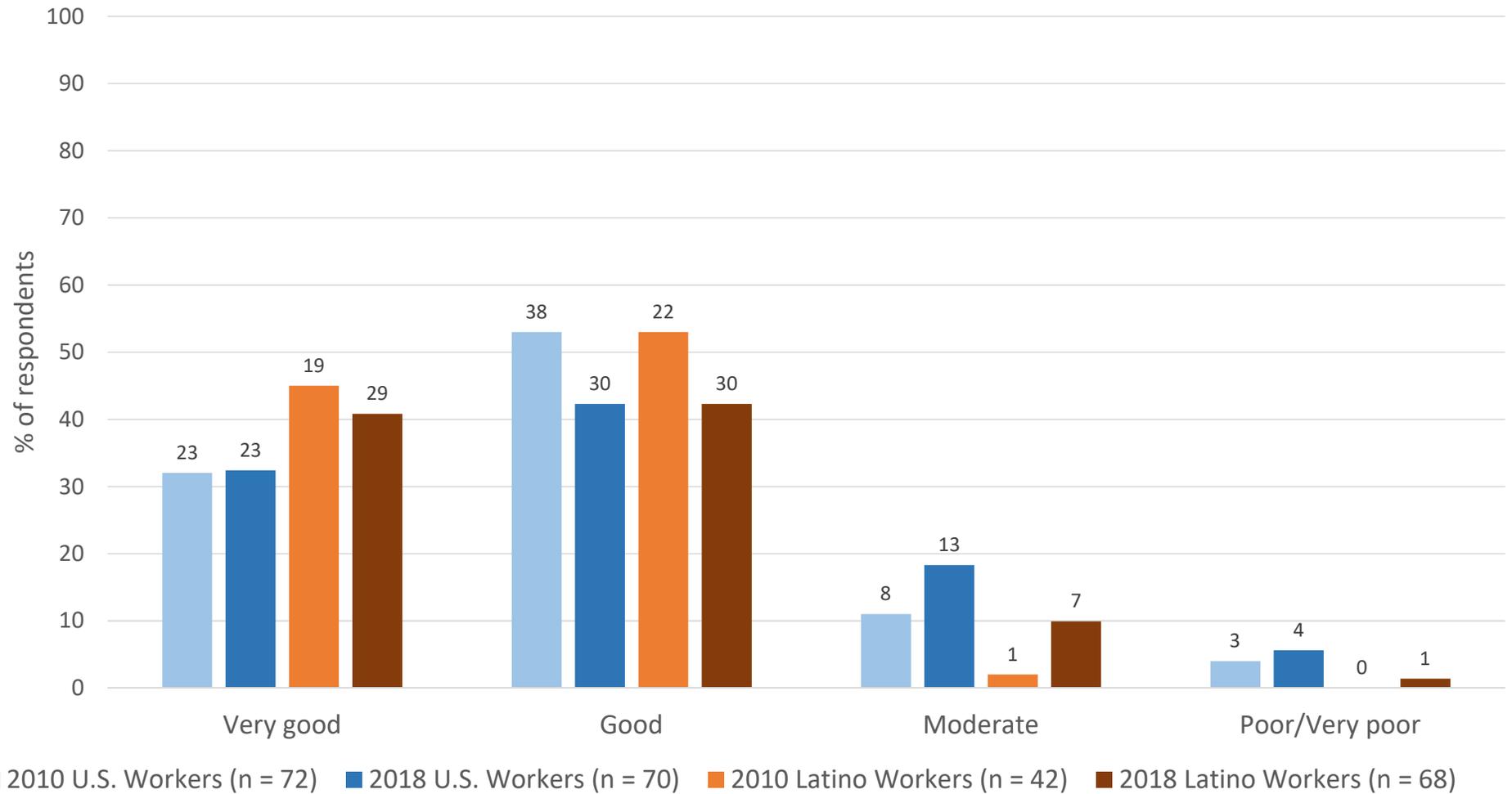
### Farmer Survey: Farm Size (2018)

	Percent
Less than 50 cows	1.4
LFO (700+)	25.4
MFO (200-699)	50.7
SFO (50-199)	22.5
Total	100.0



2018: Of the 586 non-family farmworkers employed 57% were Latinos

## Dairy Farmers Experience with U.S. & Latino Workers



2016 Top 10 causes of stress for Latino dairy farmworkers (n=173)

Question	Ordinal Rank
Migrating to this country was difficult	1
I worry about being deported	2
I worry about not having a permit to work in this country	3
It is difficult to be away from family members	4
I have difficulty understanding other people when they speak English	5
<b><i>I am concerned about being injured working on a dairy farm in the US</i></b>	6
I have difficulty communicating in the English language	7
It is difficult to be away from friends	8
Sometimes I don't feel at home	9
I have to work in bad weather (tie)	10
At times I have to work long hours (tie)	10

2019 Top 10 causes of stress for Latino dairy farmworkers (n=66)

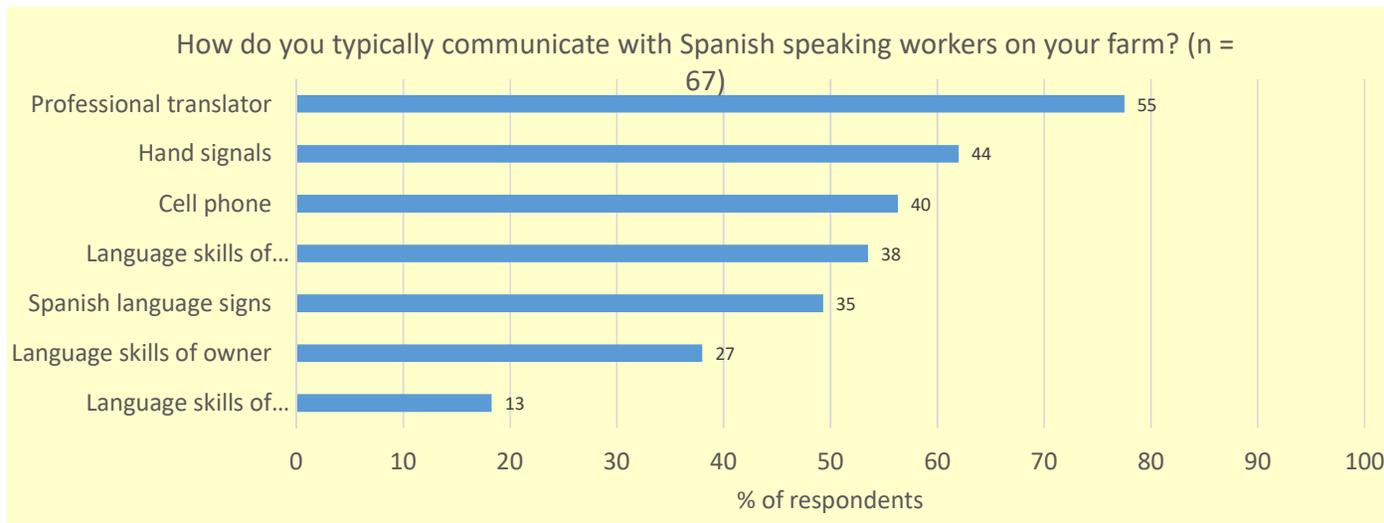
Question	Ordinal Rank
It is difficult to be away from family members	1
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I have difficulty understanding other people when they speak English	5
<b><i>I am concerned about being injured working on a dairy farm in the US</i></b>	6
I have difficulty communicating in the English language	7
Sometimes I don't feel at home	8
I feel isolated	9
At times I have to work long hours	10
I have to work in bad weather	11

Language is a challenge and depends heavily on translators from off-farm

## 2019 Farmworker Survey:

Does Farm Management Speak Spanish? 82% said no

## 2018 Farmer Survey



Current reports from the field that translators have been asked by farmers to explain to workers why milk is being dumped

# Housing Density

## Latino farmworker housing in 2019:

4.2 people/house

Range from 1 to 9 people/house

Average of 3.7 bedrooms

33% shared bedrooms with another person

(n= 66)

# Food Access

63% of farmers provided transportation for farm workers to go shopping (n=67)

Workers are also served by independent mobile food vendors

These vendors sell foods highly valued by Latino farmworkers

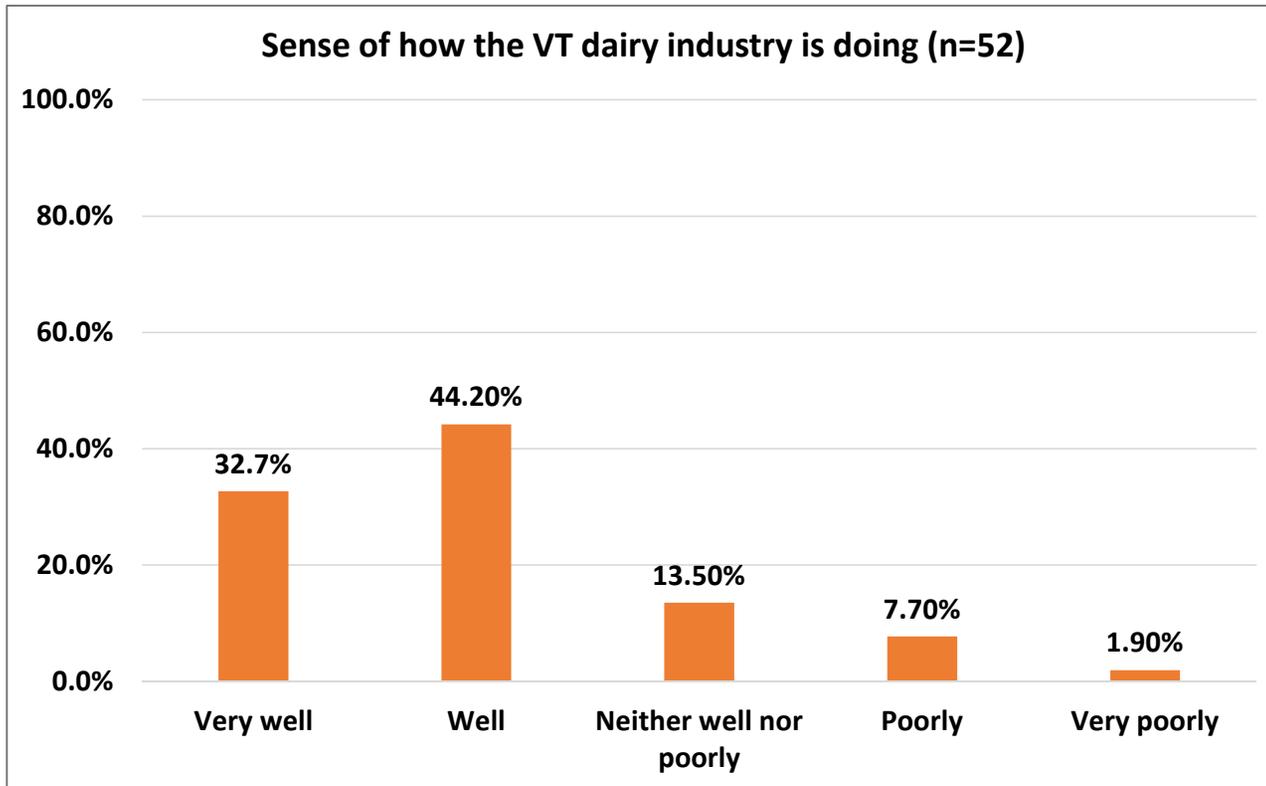
## Both of these sources are currently restricted

2019 Farmworker Survey: **In the past month, I was concerned about whether I would have enough food to eat**

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Does Not Apply	11	16.7
Not At All Stressful	42	63.6
Somewhat Stressful	9	13.6
Moderately Stressful	4	6.1
Total	66	100.0

# Latino Workers Survey 2019

## Perceptions of the Vermont Dairy Industry



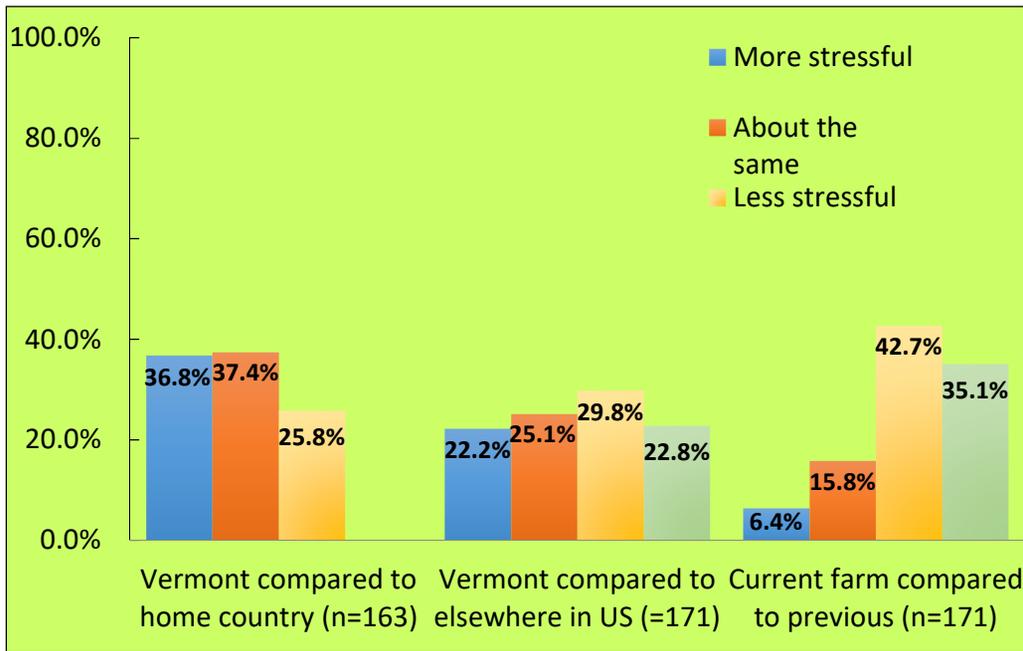
### Vermont Agency of Agriculture:

Number of Vermont Cow Dairy Farms (2010-2019)

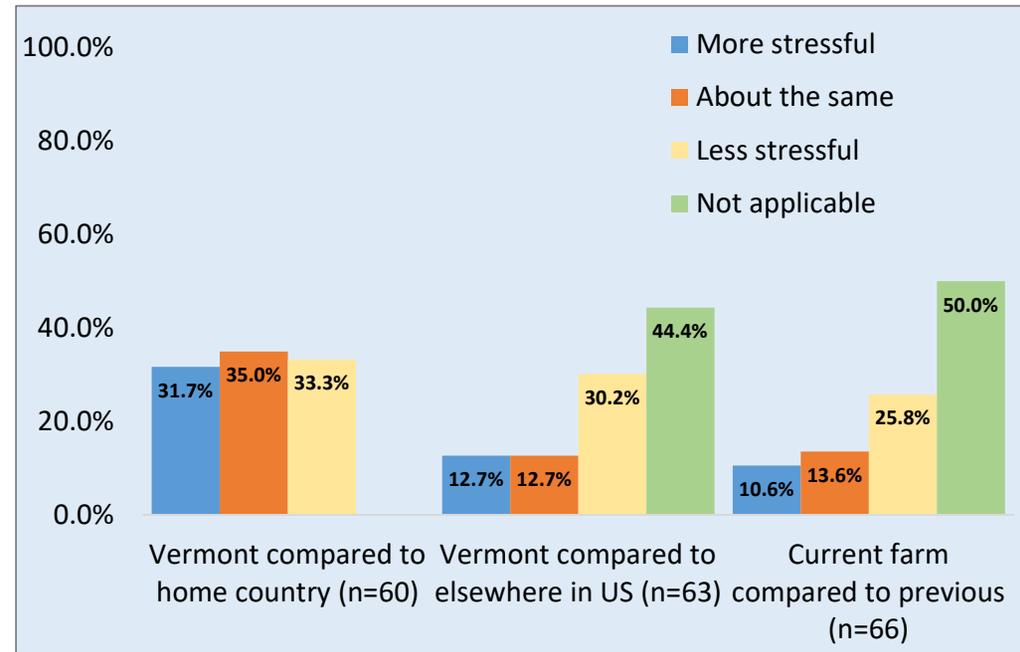


# Latino Migrant Dairy Farmworker Stress: How Vermont Compares ...

## 2016 Survey



## 2019 Survey



# Recommendations

## **Short-term:**

Support existing health access programs run by the Open Door Clinic and UVM Extension Bridges to Health program

## **Looking ahead:**

Vermont needs a Spanish-language Dairy Farm Safety Program

On-farm

Built around issues of concern to both farmworkers and farmers

- collaborative program design

Successful programs have been developed

Coronavirus may increase interest (zoonotic diseases are a concern in dairy)

# Thanks to research assistants

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