



# Understanding the Scope of the Opioid Epidemic for Agricultural Industries, and the Roles of Pain, Depression and Stress

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# Situation



Rising incidence opioid use



Higher rates in rural areas



74% in Ag industries report being affected by opioids (Farm Bureau study)



Risk of overdose, death, abuse



Concern by FNGLA regarding workforce



**Specific to Florida ag owners/workers and nursery/landscape**



**Online survey (5-15 minutes); follow-up with qualitative interviews**



**Look at: opioid use; impact on workplace and family; depression, pain, and stress**



**To date 132 participants (80 nursery/landscape; 52 crop/livestock/other)**

# Current study

# Preliminary results



High level of opioid use (over 54%)



Opioid use highly associated with reports of pain and depression (not so much stress)



75% prescribed due to work injury



High level of addiction to opioids among those who use (64%), a lot seek treatment (87%)

**12.2% owners** say opioids  
have **NOT** affected  
workforce

**14.9%** don't know of any  
opioid OD among employees

**5.4%** report no known  
employee use of opioids

### Work fall-out from opioids:

- 54% work absences
- 46% quit or fired due to use
- 67% injured at work while using
- 62.5% hard to do daily tasks
- Worker absences due to drug treatment
- Less workplace productivity
- Increased worker turnover

## Preliminary results

# Limitations



Online survey concerns



Not capturing all people (esp. non-English, non-computer/Internet use, non-survey takers, etc.)



Would like more participants



Need qualitative follow-up



Only a single time point, can't predict