

# La Cosecha: Harvesting Farmworker Health by Bridging Gaps in Medical Education and Training



Denise Jimenez-Tapia<sup>1,2</sup>, Erica Escalera<sup>1,2</sup>, Gerardo Moreno<sup>3</sup>, Jyoti Puvvula<sup>3</sup>  
<sup>1</sup> David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA; <sup>2</sup> Program in Medical Education-Leadership Advocacy (PRIME-LA), Department of Family Medicine



**UCLA** Underrepresented in Medicine Center of Excellence

## INTRODUCTION

- CA home to 800,000 farmworkers
- more than half of crops are harvested in CA
  - significant occupational health hazards
  - 53% undocumented, low health literacy, >85% uninsured
- California Medical Schools
- 2/18 med schools have programs/curriculum focused on farmworker health disparities

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Bridge the gap in medical education training for future providers

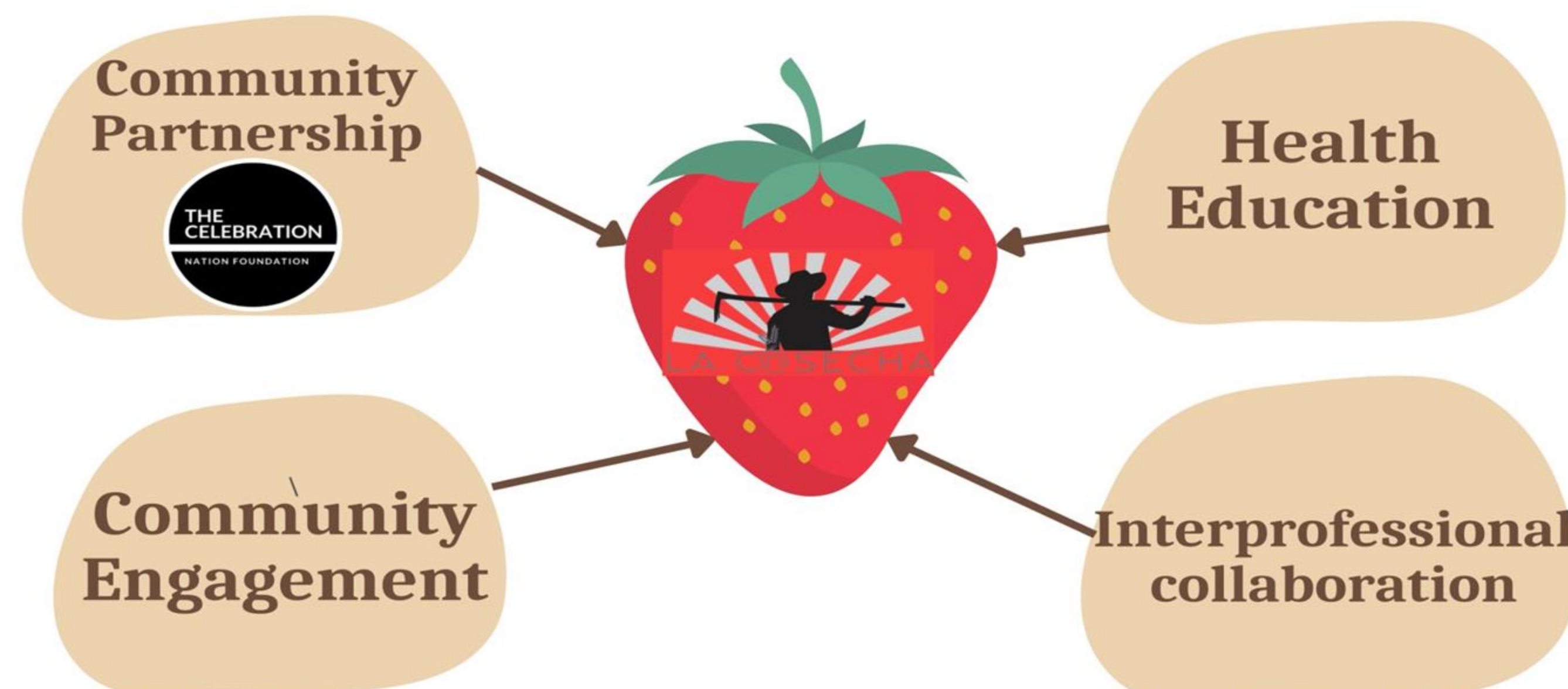
### FARM WORKING COMMUNITY

- Increase Health Literacy
- Education on Occupational Hazards
- Prevention of Occupational Health Hazards
- Building Trust and Collaboration

### MEDICAL STUDENTS

- Expand understanding of multifactorial effects influencing farmworker health
- Reduce Knowledge Gaps in occupational health hazards
- Develop Cultural Humility
- Facilitate Collaboration & Community Engagement
- Encourage Advocacy

## HOW OUR PROGRAM WORKS



## DESIGN

Workshops are every 2 months at Celebration Nation's food distribution site.



## IMPACT IN FARMWORKERS

2 program intervention sites: Oxnard and Coachella

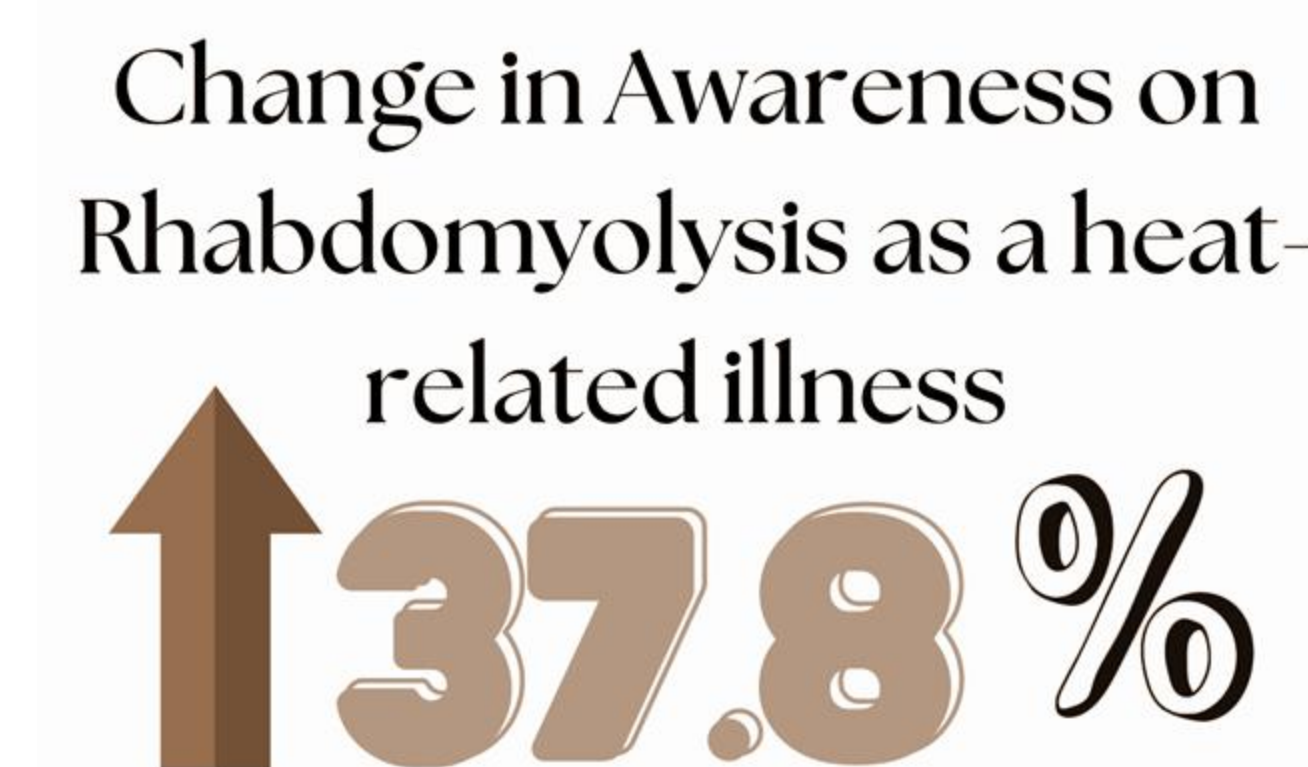
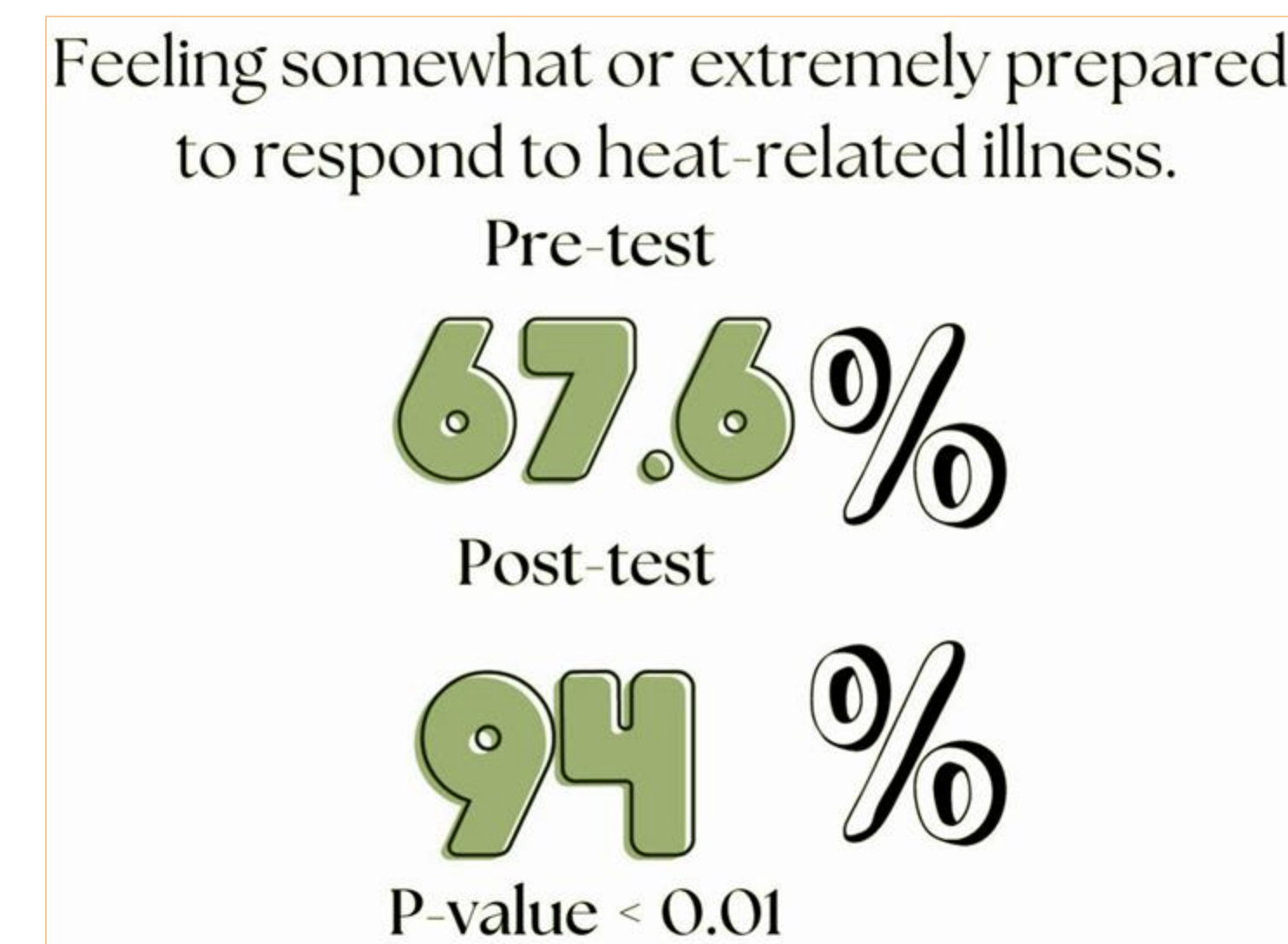
### OXNARD, CA:

- 94 farmworkers participated in heat-related illnesses/prevention education during the inaugural health education workshop
- N= 24 participated in blood pressure health screening (High blood pressure defined as any systolic reading  $\geq 130$  mmHg or a diastolic pressure  $\geq 90$  mmHg)

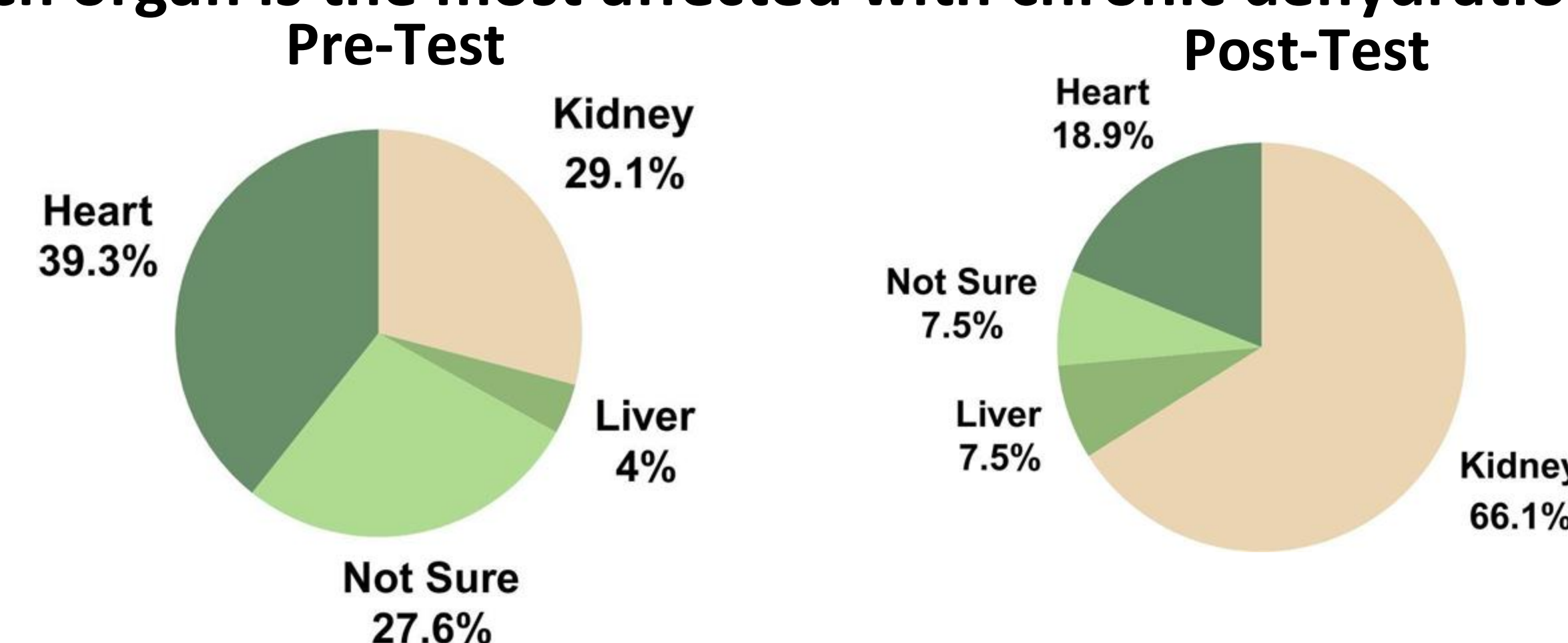
	Elevated	Percentage
<b>Systolic Blood Pressure</b>	12/24	50%
<b>Diastolic Blood Pressure</b>	8/24	33%

### COACHELLA, CA:

- 84 participated in heat-related illnesses/prevention education of the participants, 74.6% were self designated farmworkers
- Methods: key knowledge concepts were developed and tested through pre and post-test educational session

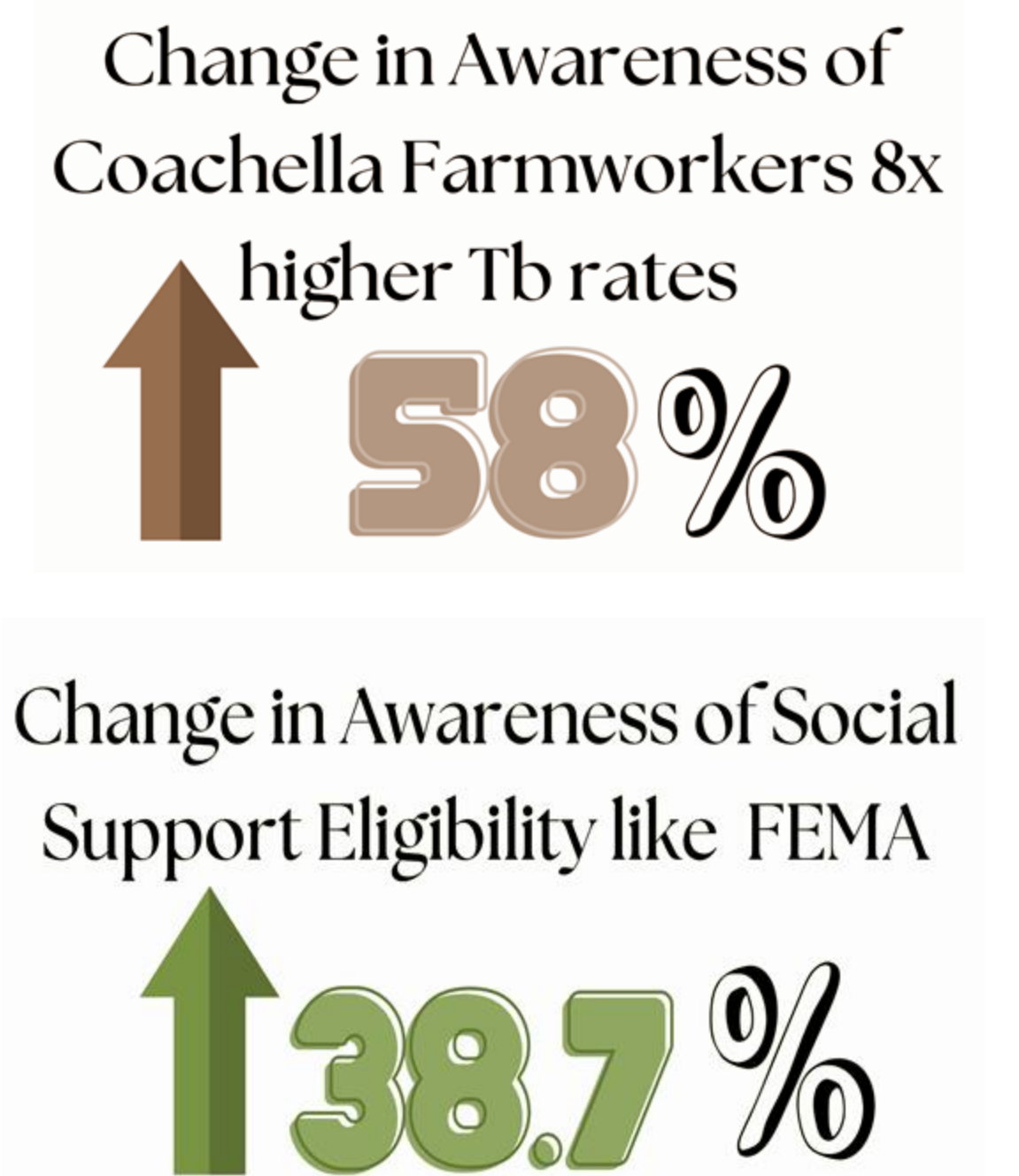
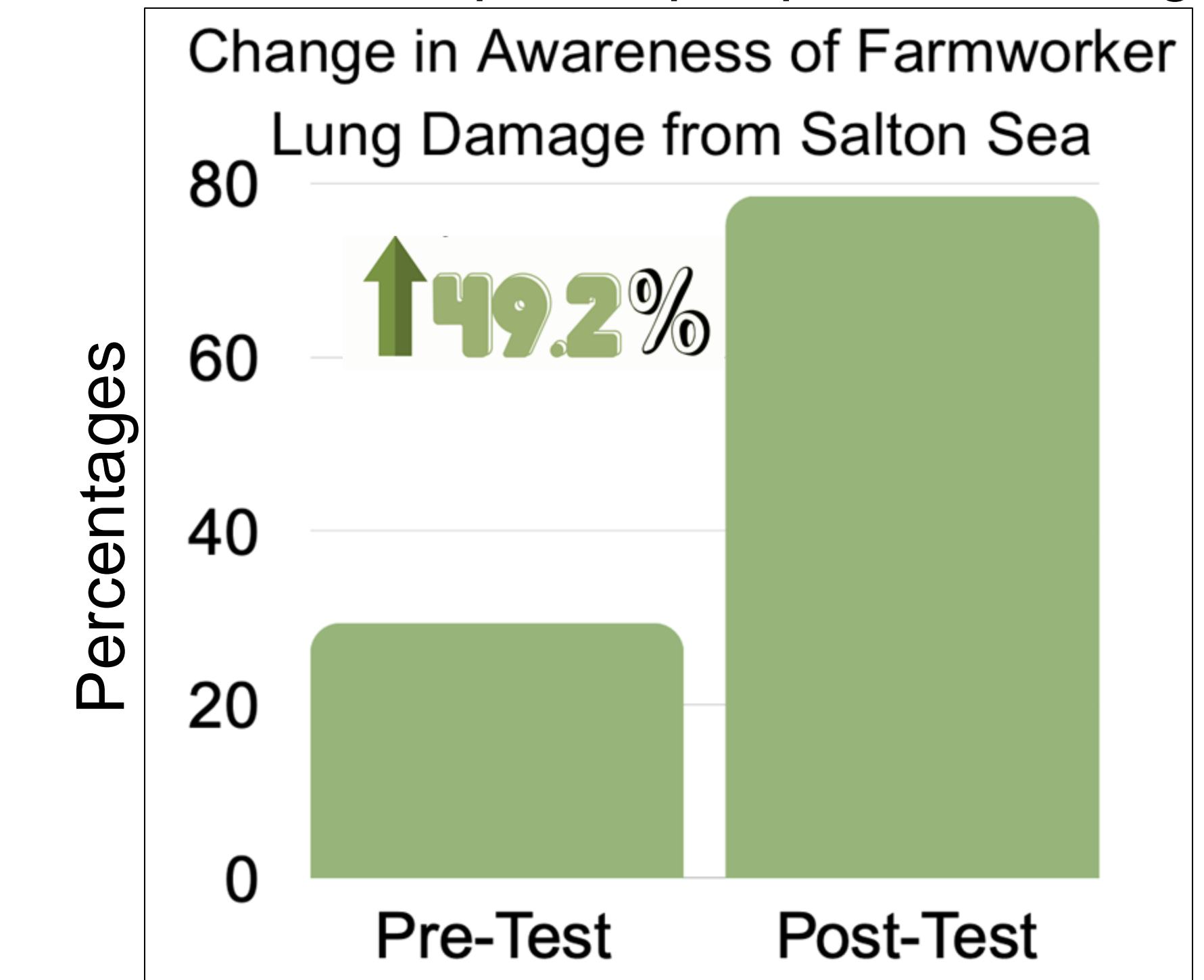


Which organ is the most affected with chronic dehydration?



## IMPACT IN MEDICAL STUDENTS

- 39 medical students participated in the farmworker education
- N=17 completed pre/post knowledge-based test



## LESSONS LEARNED

- Interactive classes supplemented with visuals and take-home pamphlets proved highly effective.
- Clinic lists with licensed providers on site facilitates follow-up
- Culturally sensitive health education led by prior farmworker research allows for targeted education and awareness efforts.
- More volunteers are needed to support pre/post tests

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Incorporation of skits/ novela style teaching
- Having indigenous translators during workshops
- Training promotoras in the region
- Providing workshops in the farms and fields
- Expanding to other Celebration Nation food distribution sites

## CONCLUSIONS

Given our large and growing farmworking communities statewide, health professional schools should consider expanding their curriculum to include sections focused on farmworker health. Health professionals must understand the barriers, hazards, and socioeconomic factors impacting farmworker health to provide farmworkers with the culturally competent care they deserve.

## REFERENCES

