



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
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February 13, 1978

Edward D. Martin, M.D.
Assistant Surgeon General
Director, Bureau of Community Health Services
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Public Health Service
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Dr. Martin:

Thank you for your reply to my letter of December 8, 1977, in which I expressed concerns regarding certain proposals in the re-enactment of Public Law 94-63, Title IV, Migrant Health Centers. I am gratified to learn that these concerns are being considered. The staff of the Department of Human Resources and I would appreciate continued dialogue with the Public Health Service as this legislation is being prepared.

In your letter, you referred to certain points in my correspondence whose accuracy needs to be verified. Since these appear to be of some moment, let me address each point:

1. Migrant population estimates for this state vary, but have been assumed to be as high as 40,000. The Rural Employment and Training Office, Employment Security Commission (which acts for the Federal Department of Labor) estimates the number of migrant labor force to be, not 6,000-9,000, but more than 16,000 in 1977. (Estimate By County, q.v., attached). This figure pertains only to the labor force; it does not include the considerable number of family members who are not workers and who, of course, are included under the Migrant Health Act. Also, the figure excludes the many migrants who come to North Carolina as "free-wheelers" and are not served by the Rural Employment and Training Office.

Our method of estimating the migrant population is based upon the documented data of the Rural Employment and Training Office (RET) on migrant labor force. We then

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adjust the number to accommodate the freewheeling migrant labor force not served by the said office. The figure derived that way is then adjusted to the non-working (dependent) members of the migrant families. The illustration of the method as applied to the year 1977 is attached. We estimated 35,000 migrants for 1977. If the trend continues, the state may expect 4,000 more migrants in 1978. Since our estimate is based on the labor force documented by RET, we feel that the migrant population in North Carolina as indicated in my letter of December 8, 1977 is nearly correct.

There has been a sharp increase in our migrant population since 1974. One reason for this, we were told, was the amending then of the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act. The amendment covered, for the first time, those resident contractors (crewleaders) who commuted over 25 miles with their crews as well as those who were engaged in farm labor contracting for more than 13 weeks in the calendar year. Being now covered, these North Carolina crewleaders had to meet the much higher insurance requirements of the Act. Most of them simply could not afford it, and had to quit farm labor contracting, thus creating the need for bringing in migrant crews to do the work. Whatever the reason, the increase occurred and is continuing.

The many agencies that provide various types of services to migrants collect data relevant to their management and reporting purposes. No agency has the responsibility for documenting the total migrant population. Two organizations made the effort, and each on its own surveyed the migrant population in the state. The national Legal Services Corporation, a recipient of Federal funds, conducted a study of migrants in the peak month of 1977 season and reported more than 40,000 migrants in the state. The report (a copy attached) was presented in a public hearing on migrants held in Raleigh on September 17, 1977 under the auspices of the U. S. Civil Rights Commission. Rural America Inc., which is based in Washington, D. C., studied North Carolina migrants in 1976 and reported that 44,145 migrants were in the state. Rural America studied migrants in the other states, and we understand that its work is known to your Migrant Health Office. The report entitled: *Where Have All the Farmworkers Gone* was published in September 1977.

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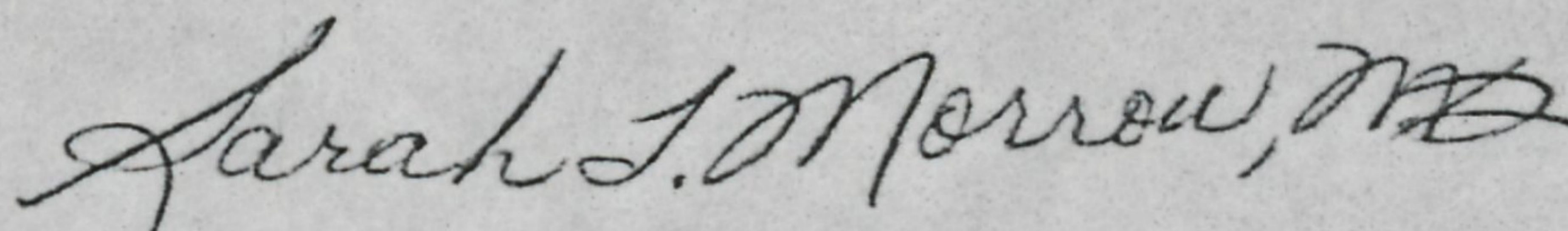
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2. You cite data stating that the migrant population in the Sampson-Johnston area is 3,500, based on camp occupancy records. Yet, the Federal Government has recognized this as a high impact area for migrants, which by definition must have more than 6,000 migrants. The recognition was reflected in the decision of the HEW Regional Office, Atlanta to transform the health project serving migrants in this area to a center. This was a necessary step to meet the provisions of the Migrant Health Act for high impact areas. After a grant (#04-H000228) was given to the project in May 1977, another grant (#04-H-001518) followed in August 1977 specifically awarded to complete the process of establishing a center. The said center is extending services to seasonal farmworkers, but the establishment of the center was necessitated by the number of the total migrant population in the area.

Let me also add that camp occupancy data are not indicative of the migrant population. A camp by definition houses 10 workers or more, without counting dependents. In addition, there are several hundred housing units in this area, each of which houses less than 10 workers with many dependents.

I trust that by replying in some detail regarding numbers of migrants, I have not obscured the principles I wanted to emphasize in my initial letter. Let me stress that we in North Carolina feel that many provisions in the proposed legislation are disadvantageous both to migrants and to providers.. We would like to have an opportunity to share the information that will be used in preparing health programs for migrants as well as the legislation governing these programs. It is our hope that congressional enactments and federal regulations will facilitate rather than impair the work of our staff in the field, and will not ignore large numbers of migrants through rigidity in program implementation. We feel that our experience qualifies us to be a partner in the deliberations on program management and service delivery. We would be pleased to work closely with central and regional Public Health Service staff in this important matter.

Sincerely,



Sarah T. Morrow, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

Attachment

cc: Dr. George A. Reich

MIGRANTS ESTIMATE IN NORTH CAROLINA - 1977

The Rural Employment and Training Office of the Employment Security Commission reported 16,103 migrant labor force as follows:

	<u>Blacks</u>	<u>Mexican-Americans</u>
1. 16,103	9,917	6,186
2. Adjust for freewheelers not served by RET: Use 20% rate		
20%	1,983	1,237
Total (Labor Force)	<u>11,900</u>	<u>7,423</u>
3. Adjust for dependents:*		
A. Mexican-Americans' dependents range 1 3/4-2 1/2 per worker) Using 1 3/4 as basis		12,990
B. Blacks range is 1/4-1/2 Using 1/4 as a basis	2,975	
Migrant Population (Labor Force and Dependents)	<u>14,875</u>	<u>20,413</u>
Total	35,288	

The number of migrants in North Carolina is estimated to be 35,000 in 1977.

Projection for 1978

If the trend of increase continues into 1978, the state should expect 39,000. In the past years since 1975, we experienced some 2,500 increase in the labor force or a minimum of 4,000 in the overall migrant population.

*Mexican-Americans migrate in family units. Most have large families. The ratio of dependents to workers is high among them. These ratios are based on the observations of our field staff. We are using the minimum of the range for each ethnic group.