A. PROJECT TITLE
   Evaluations of Trauma in Hispanic Farmworkers

B. PROJECT OFFICER
   Bernward Steinjorst, MD, MA
   Clinical Instructor, Brody School of Medicine
   East Carolina University
   Greenville, NC  27834

C. PROJECT DESCRIPTION
   The Level I Trauma Center at the University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina serves a rapidly growing number of Hispanic patients many of whom are farmworkers, who have either permanently settled in the area or are migrating according to the labor requirements of the crop cycle. Specific health related risks of this group have been studied in the past and a propensity of Hispanics in general to fall victim to trauma has been shown recently. While a number of surveys have pointed at the farm as a high risk workplace with regard to trauma, no recent data have been generated regarding the epidemiology of trauma in general among Hispanic farmworkers. A small pilot study suggests that risks and injury patterns are quite different from the general population. If this can be confirmed in a larger study and those trends linked to certain behavior patterns resulting from the particular socioeconomic background, prevention strategies can be developed.
   Patient data will be generated for the time period from 1991 to 2001 from the Trauma Center Database and patient charts and compared to the service population in general as well as subgroups sharing certain characteristics (ethnicity, workplace, material means). This will not only describe the scope of the problem but also allow to identify risk factors, which may be related to the particular working and living conditions of resident and in particular migrant Hispanic farmworkers in Eastern North Carolina.
   In concert with future studies, which directly examine those conditions in the field, this study could lay the groundwork for intervention strategies aimed at reducing this population's risk for traumatic injuries: Also, by identifying subgroups of patients within the Trauma Center Database, further research on these will be greatly facilitated. Because the problem of farmworker trauma may be similar across the nation, this study may serve as a template for the design of statewide and even national surveys.

D. PROJECT START AND END DATES
   July 1, 2002 - September 29, 2003

E. PROJECT BUDGET
   Total project expenditure for the year () excluding inkind contributions and other funding aside from NIOSH.: $18,950.00

F. PROJECT ACTIVITIES / ACCOMPLISHMENTS
   262 out of 793 total Hispanic trauma patients admitted between July 1st. 1992 and June 30, 2002 were farmworkers. At least 118 of those were migrant workers. While Hispanic patients have almost tripled (62/year to 154/year) during those ten years, which is consistent with the increase of the Hispanic population (.9% to 3.2% from 1990 to 2000
census) within the Trauma Center Service area, the number of admitted farmworkers has remained constant. There seems to be a high work related injury rate for Hispanics in general (agricultural, construction and manufacturing jobs).

G. PROJECT PRODUCTS
   a) Presentations: none
   b) Poster Presentations: none
   c) Invited Presentations: none
   e) Trade Journals: None
   f) Fact Sheets / Brochures / Technical Publications: None
   g) Other Publications: None

   Education / Training / Outreach:
   a) Training Seminars: None
   b) Short Courses: None
   c) Hazard Surveys / Consultations: None
   d) Academic Training: None
   e) Web Site: None
   f) News Letters: None
   g) CDROMs or other Computer Based Training Programs: None
   h) Other: None

Conferences / Meetings Sponsored: None

Other Products: None

H. STATES THE PROJECT WAS ACTIVE IN
   North Carolina

I. COLLABORATION: None