
Thomas A. Arcury, PhD, Professor of Family and Community Medicine, and Director of the Center for Worker Health, Wake Forest School of Medicine



Dr. Arcury is a medical anthropologist and public health scientist with a research program focused on improving the health of rural and minority populations. Since 1996, he has directed a program of research on environmental and occupational health and justice among the families of immigrant workers in rural communities. This research program has been supported with grants from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, as well as such state agencies as the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Farmworker Health Program in the North Carolina Office of Rural. This research program has examined pesticide exposure, green tobacco sickness, skin disease, injuries, housing conditions, child labor, and food security among migrant and seasonal farmworkers. He has also conducted research on the occupational health of immigrant poultry workers and immigrant construction workers. These projects have been undertaken within the framework of community-based participatory research. In addition to empirical studies, this program has developed and implemented educational programs for immigrant workers and health care providers to prevent exposures and improve treatment. Finally, he has worked with advocacy groups to use the results of this research to change environmental and occupational health policy.

His contributions have been recognized by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health with the 2006 Innovative Research Award for Worker Health and Safety, the National Rural Health Association with the 2004 Outstanding Researcher Award, the Washington Association for the Practice of Anthropology with 2003 Praxis Award, and the National Council for Geographic Education in 2001 with the Journal of Geography Award: Best Content Article. He was presented with the 2007 Mid-Career Investigator in Clinical Sciences Award by Wake Forest School of Medicine. In 2011 he was named Distinguished Alumnus by the Department of Sociology, Duquesne University. He and Sara Quandt were recognized with the 2017 Defenders of Justice Award for Policy Research and Advocacy by the North Carolina Justice Center, and the 2017 Alice Hamilton Award by the Occupational Health Section of the American Public Health Association.

Articles

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Chapters

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