

On the Corner

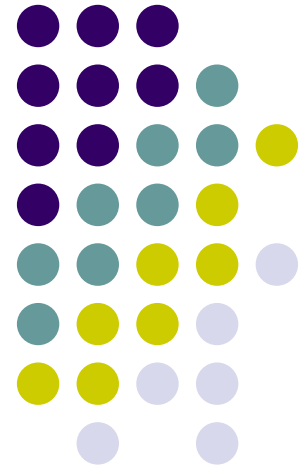
Day Labor in the United States

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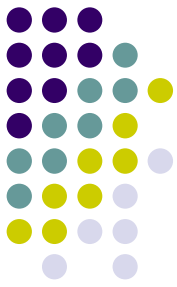
Photographs by Francisco Pacheco
National Day Laborer Organizing Network







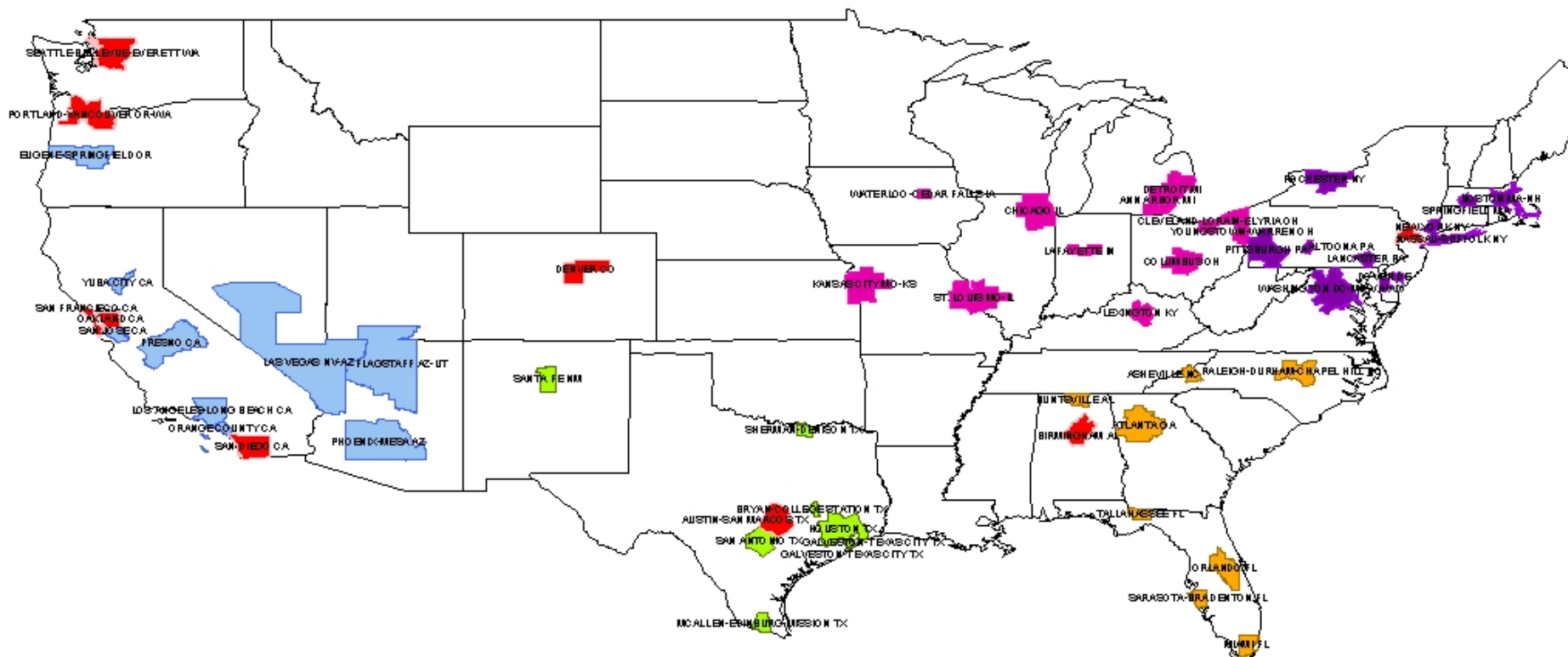
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The study

- 2,660 workers surveyed (random sample)
- 264 hiring sites
 - 221 informal sites
 - 43 worker centers
- 20 states, 46 metropolitan areas, representing every region of the country

National Day Labor Study Selected MSA's



The survey



- Based on previous research conducted in LA, NYC, Atlanta
- Six research teams
- Face-to-face surveys, ~40 minutes
- Demographic characteristics
- Labor-market experiences
 - Occupations & work history
 - Wages & earnings
 - Health & safety
 - Abuses



Organization of the day labor market



Nationwide phenomenon

- Approximately 117,600 workers are either looking for day-labor jobs or working as day laborers across the U.S.
- Regional distribution
 - West 42%
 - East 23%
 - Southwest 18%
 - South 12%
 - Midwest 4%



Organization of the day labor market



Informal Hiring Sites

- Small hiring sites: 5-20 workers
- Very large sites: 100+ workers
 - San Francisco: 133 workers
 - Phoenix: 138 workers
 - Chicago: 154 workers
 - Langley Park, MD: 349 workers
- Most sites operate year-round



Who are day laborers?

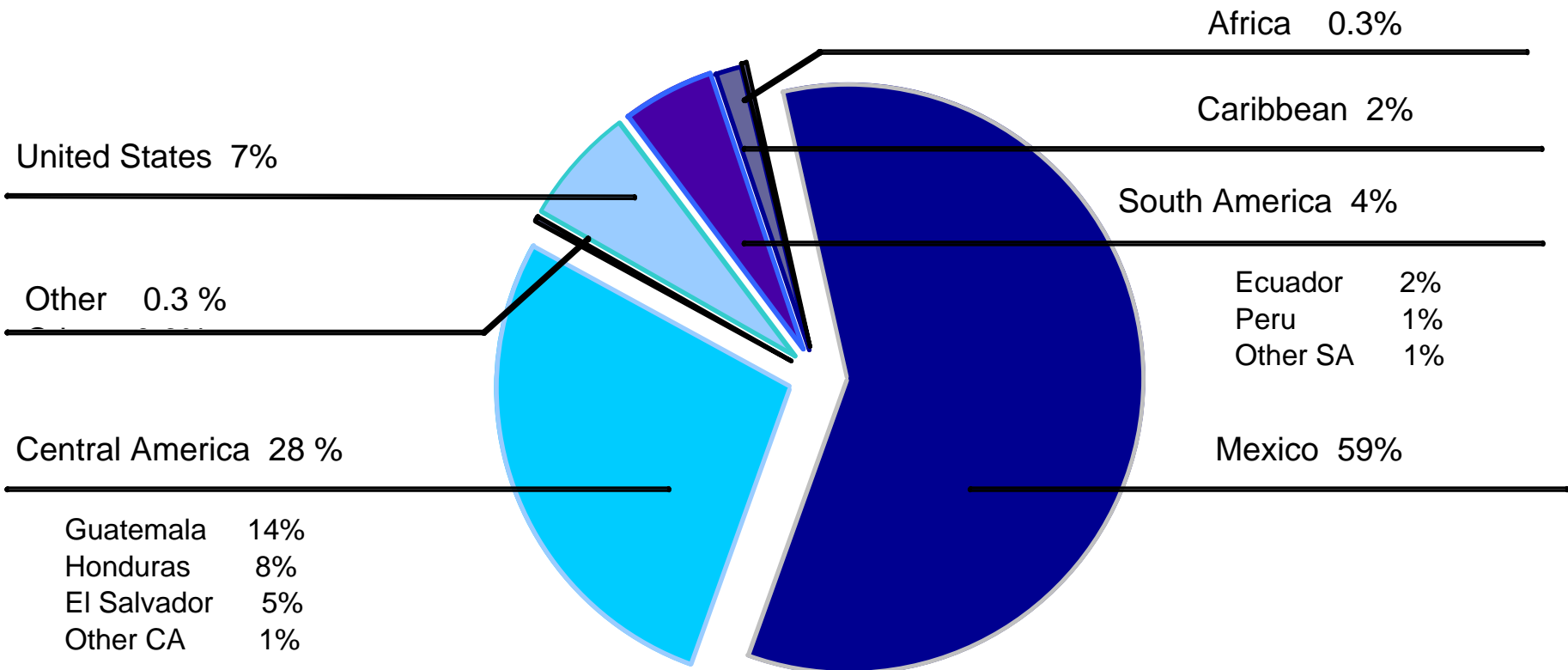
- Predominantly male (98%).
- Mean age is 34 years old.
- Married or living with a partner (43%).
- Have children (63%) of which 29% are U.S. citizens.



Who are day laborers?



Figure 3. Country of Origin



Source: National Day Labor Survey, 2004



Who are day laborers?

- Immigrants
 - Residing in U.S. less than 1 year (19%)
 - Residing in U.S. more than 6 years (40%)
- Three-quarters are undocumented immigrants, but 11% have a pending application for an adjustment of their immigration status.



Working day labor

- Employers
 - Private households (49%)
 - Residential construction contractors (43%)
- Mainly manual-labor jobs
 - Construction, moving and hauling, gardening and landscaping, and painting
- More than two-thirds hired repeatedly by the same employer (69%)



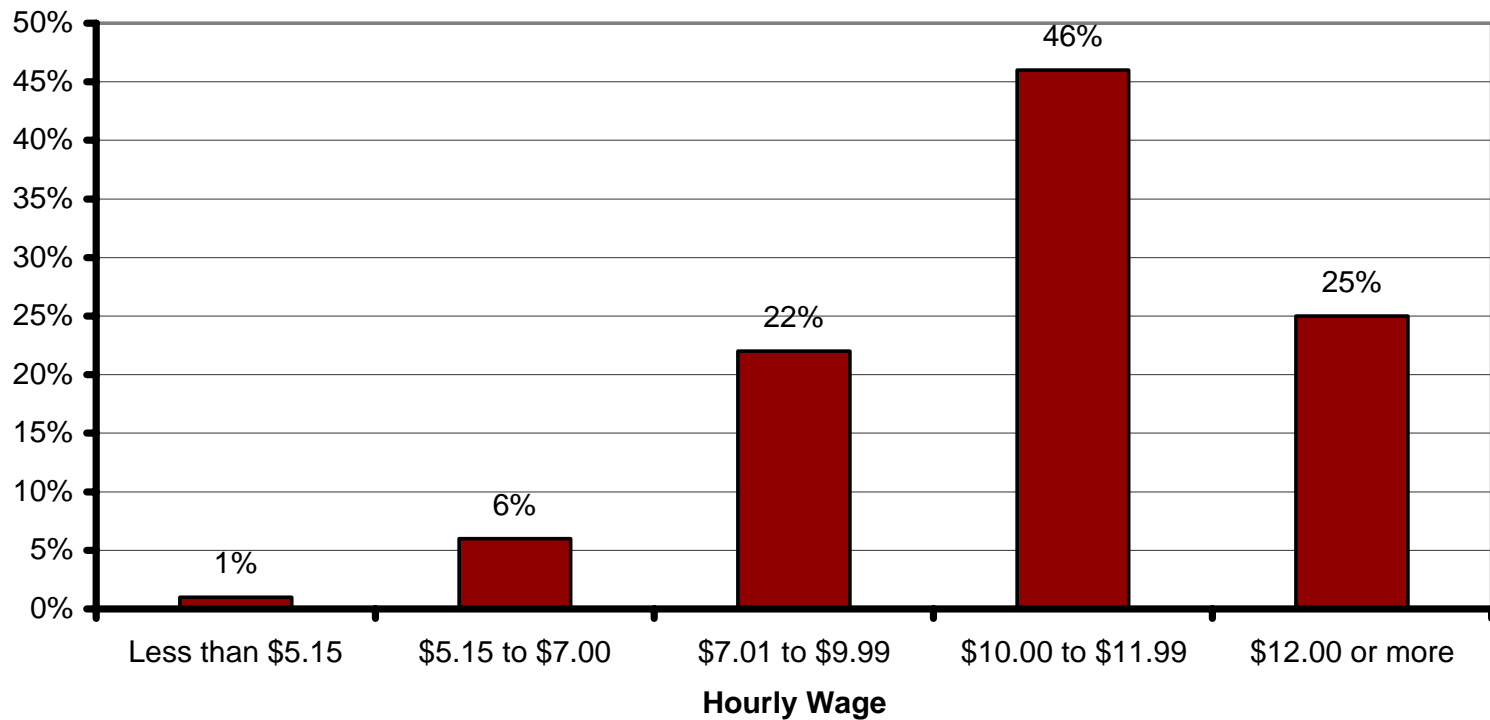
Working day labor (cont.)

- Sole source of income (83%)
- Most search for work full-time (70%)
- More than half have worked a regular, permanent job in the U.S.

Wages



Figure 2. Hourly Wages of Day Labor Jobs



Infrequent and insecure work



Monthly Earnings of Day Laborers, Full-Time Workers

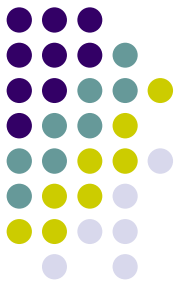
Earnings	June/July 2004	Good Month	Bad Month
\$400 or less	25%	4%	42%
\$401 to \$800	36%	16%	44%
\$801 to \$1,200	22%	26%	11%
\$1,201 to \$1,600	9%	21%	2%
More than \$1,601	7%	34%	1%
Median	\$700	\$1,400	\$500

Source: National Day Labor Survey, 2004.

Occupational hazards



- High incidence of workplace injury
 - 19% reported suffering an injury requiring medical attention in past year.
 - More than half of those who were injured in the past year did not receive medical care.
 - More than two-thirds of injured day laborers have lost time from work.
- 73% of day laborers believe their work is dangerous.



Labor standards

- Wage and hour violations
 - Nonpayment of wages (49%)
 - Underpayment of wages (48%)
 - Worked extra hours (32%)
- Workplace abuses
 - Denied food, water or breaks (44%)
 - Insulted (28%)
 - Abandoned at worksite (27%)

DAY LABOR

PICK-UP

PROHIBITED

TRESPASS STATUTE #13-1502-A1



Albany Park Workers Center CENTRO DE TRABAJO

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