

Testing a “Train-the-Trainer” Safety Awareness Program for Latino Day Laborers

The impact of a peer-led participatory health and safety training program for Latino day laborers in construction

Quintin Williams, Michele Ochsner, Elizabeth Marshall, Louis Kimmel, Carmen Martino. Journal of Safety Research, June 2010.

Overview

Immigrant Latino day laborers working in residential construction are at especially high risk of both fatal and non-fatal traumatic injury. University-based researchers, a community-based worker organization, and an area labor union collaborated to design and administer a participatory, peer-led health and safety awareness program customized to the needs of Latino day laborers working in residential construction. Worker-trainers engaged participants in a series of tasks requiring teamwork and active problem-solving focused on applying safe practices to situations they encounter at their worksites. Researchers measured the impact of the training using a follow-up survey administered to participants two-to-six months after completion of the program.

Key Findings

- The majority of day laborers who participated in this study reported great concern about the hazards of their work and were receptive to learning about health and safety despite having limited influence over employers.
- Participants in the follow-up surveys reported significant increases in use of hard hats, work boots, safety vests, and fall-arrest safety harnesses, and many described taking a more active role in making their job sites safer.
- Two-thirds of workers reported sharing information from the class with friends and co-workers.
- Participatory, peer-led training tailored to the needs of construction day laborers may have a positive effect on Latino immigrant workers' attitudes, work practices, and self-reported injury rates, but major changes would require employer engagement.

For more information, contact:

Michele Ochsner: mochsner@work.rutgers.edu

See abstract:

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