

# Southern California's Nail Salon Industry: Moving Towards a Healthier Work Environment



CALIFORNIA  
*healthy nail salon*  
COLLABORATIVE

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# Background



- Approximately 97,100 nail salon technicians in California, mostly women of color
- 59%-80% estimated to be Vietnamese immigrants
- Many earn less than \$21,800 a year and are exposed to work conditions hazardous to their health

- Collaborative started in 2005
- Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Program started in San Francisco in 2010
- Santa Monica's Healthy Nail Salon Program was established in July 2013
- Next steps for expanding into the city of Los Angeles



# Objectives

- Conduct outreach and trainings with nail salon workers and owners on health and safety and green salon practices
- Develop a business card and calendar to educate nail salon workers on health, safety and “going green”



# Objectives

- Survey the community (Los Angeles County) to gauge their interest and support of local Healthy Nail Salons



# Healthy Nail Salon Program

- Criteria: Switch to nail polishes that are “toxic trio-free” (toluene, formaldehyde, and dibutyl phthalate (DBP)); use nitrile gloves; improve ventilation
- Benefits: Improve health and safety of workplace, advertisement on the city’s website and recognized as a “Healthy Nail Salon”

# Methods



- Visit nail salons to talk about the Healthy Nail Salon Program
- Table at community events to collect consumer surveys
- Petitions

# Results - Outreaching

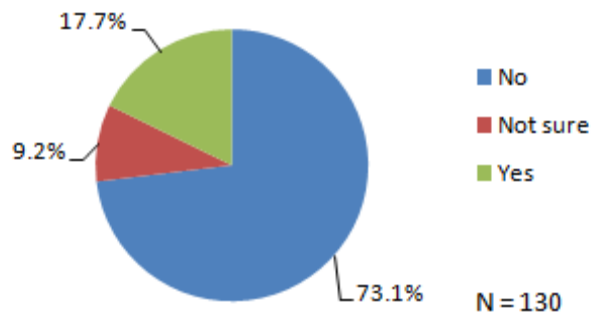
Anecdotal, didn't collect surveys or conduct interviews, but important findings and results:

- 3 additional salons in Santa Monica signed up for the program
- Those who are very supportive and interested took great pride in their work and talked about the importance of health for workers and their families
- Many carpool from faraway locations like Orange County and San Gabriel Valley

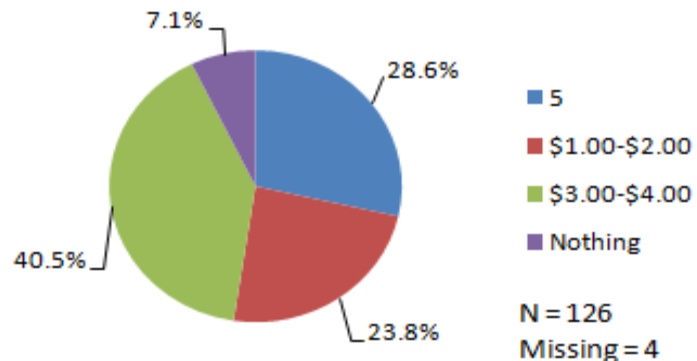


# Results - Consumer Surveys

Have You Heard About the "Toxic Trio-Free" or "3-Free" Nail Polishes?



How Much Extra Would You Be Willing to Pay for Less Toxic Products?



# Give-Back Products

- Reference card in Vietnamese listing the “Toxic Trio”
- Calendar specifically designed for nail salon workers discussing the use of healthier products, the handling of chemicals and ergonomics

# Challenges

- Limited window of time to conduct outreach
- Gaining trust from the nail salon owners and workers

# Successes

- Connected with community organizations and leaders
- Versatile outreach strategies
- Got **three** nail salons to sign up for the Healthy Nail Salon Program
- Laid the foundation for future Collaborative work in Southern California

# Recommendations



- Educate nail salon owners and workers and consumers to build a buy-in for the Healthy Nail Salon Program
- Revisiting nail salons, maintaining relationships with them
- Push for policy that requires testing before releasing products
- More statistics need to be gathered on health effects experienced by nail salon workers

# Personal Reflections

- Importance of building a personal relationship
- Language competency

# For More Information...



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<http://www.cahealthynailsalons.org/>

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# Acknowledgements



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Occupational Health  
Internship Program



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*Liên Hiệp Ngành Móng Tay Lành Mạnh*

- Nail Salon Owners and Workers
- Allies, Family and Friends



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