

Pretty Shouldn't Stink

Improving Nail Salon Workers' Health



Vina Nguyen
Human Biology and Society, B.A., 2018
University of California, Los Angeles

Nikki Nguyen
Environmental Health, B.S., 2019
University of Washington

Background: Industry

- Worth \$8.53 billion nationwide
- Projected to grow 28% by 2024
- 80% in California are Vietnamese
- Rising number of independent contractors
- Workers exposed to hazardous environments



Background: Collaborative

2005

Asian Health Services establishes California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative

2010

CA Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Program (CHNSRP) started in San Francisco

2013

HNSRP started in Santa Monica

2016

Assembly Bill AB2125

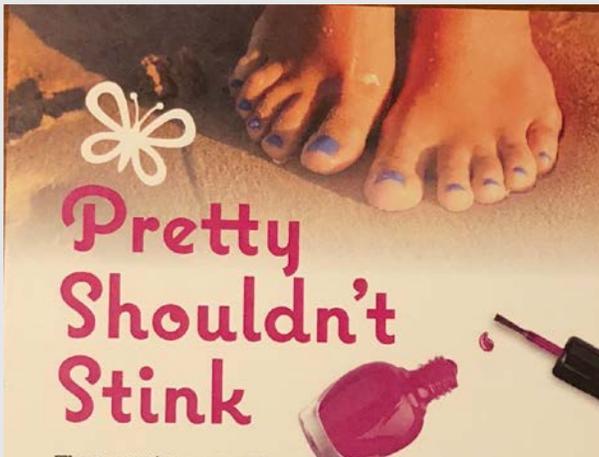
2018

5 Healthy Nail Salons in Santa Monica and 6 in the process of certification

Objectives

- Outreach to nail salons in Santa Monica
- Train nail salon workers
- Develop outreach materials
- Collect 250 pledge cards from community

<p>I will continue my support by:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Staying connected</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Registering to vote</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am registered and I will vote</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sharing my story</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Donating</p> <p>Thank you! We will deliver your pledge to your lawmaker & mail you the voter card.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a nail salon worker/owner</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Dear: _____</p> <p>Thank you for helping build a healthier, safer and more just California for ALL residents by agreeing to share your voice and vote this election cycle.</p> <p>Sincerely, your friends at AHS & the Collaborative</p>	<p>Dear <u>Legislator</u>: Today I join the thousands of California lending their voices to ensure that every person living in our state is able to thrive, has affordable access to all served including health care, and has a healthy environment to live and work with their families.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Safe and healthy work and consumer environments including salons</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring all people have access to affordable & accessible services like reproductive health care</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Healthy affordable and safe neighborhoods serving all.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention and leadership.</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Street Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>DOB: / / _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>
---	---	---	--



Pretty Shouldn't Stink

The next time you get your nails done, choose a recognized **Healthy Nail Salon**. They use less toxic products, safer practices and better ventilation. So, you can breathe easy knowing they are healthier for you, their employees and the planet.

Now, that's beautiful.

To find a recognized **Healthy Nail Salon** near you, visit sustainablem.org/healthynailsalons.

Concept and design by San Francisco Dept. of the Environment. Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

CALIFORNIA healthy nail salon COLLABORATIVE

Liên Hiệp Ngành Móng Tay Xanh Mạnh

Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Program

- **9 Criteria**

1. **Uses nail polishes without the toxic-trio:** dibutyl phthalate (DBP), toluene, and formaldehyde.
2. **Uses safer nail polish removers** without ethyl or butyl acetate.
3. **Avoids nail polish thinners**, but if necessary, without toluene and methyl ethyl ketone.
4. **Ensures all nail salon staff wear nitrile gloves.**
5. **Ventilates the salon.** Designates specific area for artificial nail services.
6. **Installs a mechanical ventilation unit.**
7. **Trains all nail salon staff** (payroll & on contract) on best H&S practices.
8. **Adopts safer nail products.**
9. **Does not allow customers to bring in products** unless products meet program criteria.



**HEALTHY
NAIL SALON
PROGRAM**

Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Program

- **Benefits:**

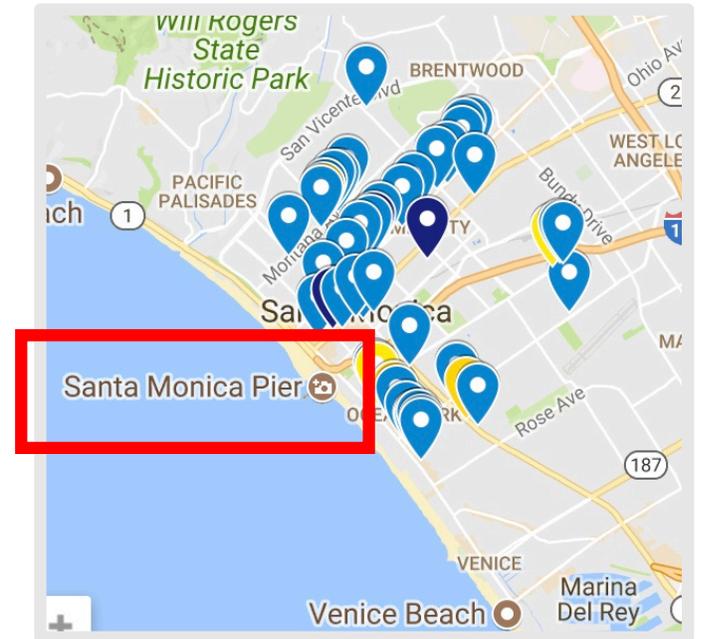
- Advertisement
- Free ventilation unit valued at \$2,000
- Consumer trust
- 15-20% increase in customers



HEALTHY
NAIL SALON
PROGRAM

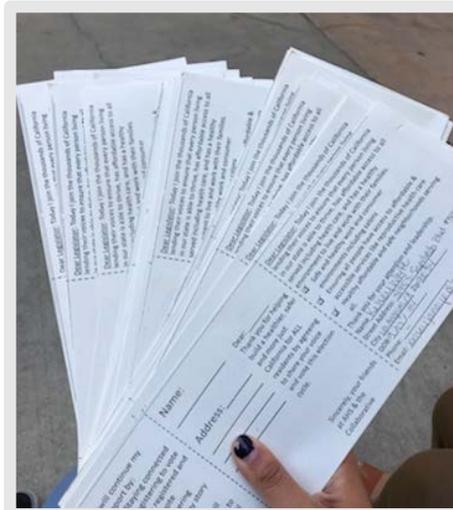
Methods

- Visit nail salons: 10AM-1PM Mon-Wed
- Outreach for pledge cards
 - Bruin Walk
 - Family and friends
 - Conference
 - Community events



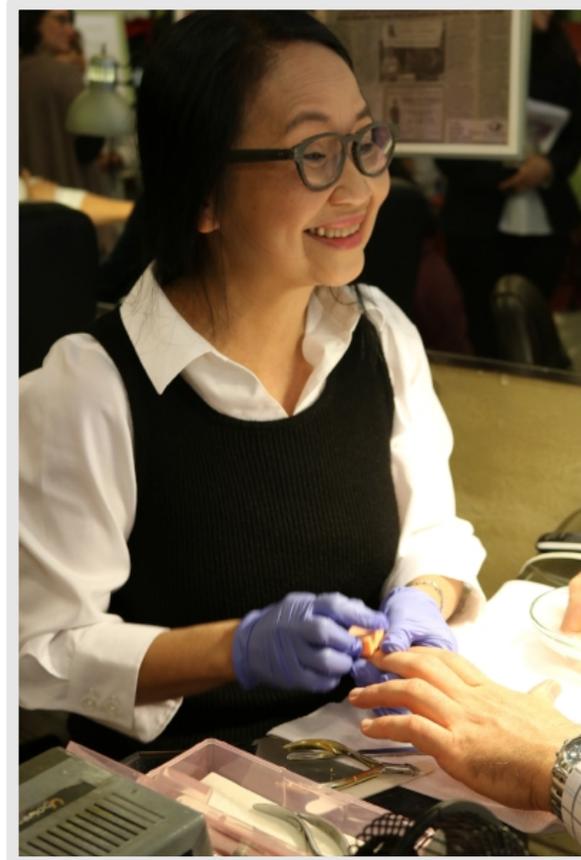
Results

- Outreached to 41 salons
- Registered **4 salons** for the CHNSRP
 - H&S training for 3 nail salon workers
- Collected 350 pledge cards

Three examples of 'Healthy Nail Salon Program: Application Form' forms. Each form includes the program logo, instructions, and 'Section I - Contact Information'.
1. Top form: 'Legal Name of Business' is 'NY NAIL BAR'.
2. Middle form: 'Legal Name of Business' is 'DE ORGANIC SPA DBA ACHEMIE SPA'. The date is handwritten as '7/20/18'.
3. Bottom form: 'Legal Name of Business' is 'THU BEAUTY NAIL SPA'.
The middle form also includes Vietnamese text: 'Đơn Đăng Ký cho Chương trình Chứng Nhận Tiệm Móng Tay Lành Mạnh' and 'Phần I - Thông tin liên lạc'.

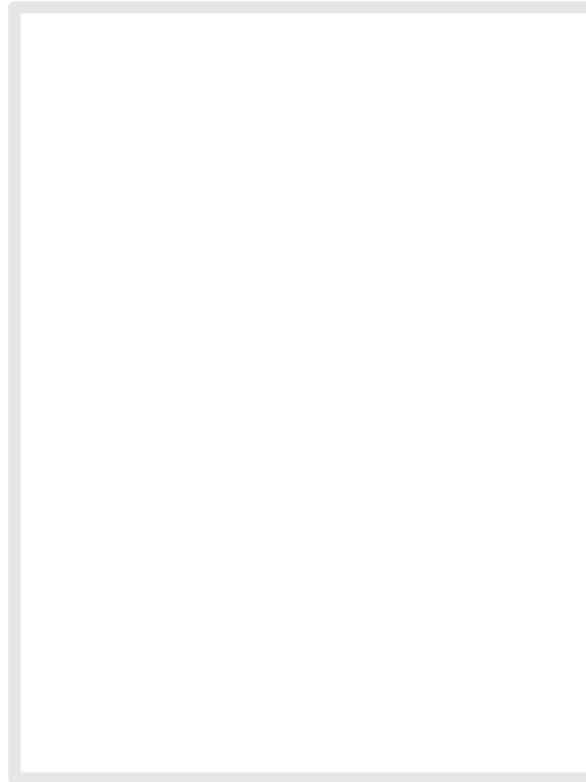
Important Findings

- Employer-worker dynamics
- Nail salon workers' pride
- Worker-client relationships
- Lack of awareness
- Future potential



Give-back Products

- **Humanizing project**
 - 14 people interviewed
 - Based on humans in NY
 - Asian American artist
- **Outreach materials**
 - Compliance form
 - Information fact sheet
 - Ergonomics information sheet



Did You Know?

- The products in some nail salons have toxic chemicals that are associated with health problems such as cancer, birth defects, and allergies.
- Most of the chemicals used in nail salons have not been researched.
- Workers in the nail salon industry are primarily low-wage immigrants.
- The California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative works to promote better worker and consumer health, through improved air conditions and eliminating toxic substances in nail salon products.

To learn more about the nail salon industry and the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative:

<https://cahealthynailsalons.org>
 California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative
 @CA_HNSC
 info@cahealthynailsalons.org



Name of nail salon: El Magnifico Nail Salon Nail salon number: _____
 Cluster/What Awaay: (City/Block) (5th) _____
 Date of first visit: 7/21/19 Time of first visit: 10:15
 Date of second visit: 7/27/19 Time of second visit: 11:10
 Date of third visit: _____ Time of third visit: _____
 Name of worker(s): (not necessarily the worker) (Number of worker(s)) _____
 Name of manager: _____ Number of manager(s): _____
 Name of owner: _____ Number of owner(s): _____
 Store number: 312-555-1122 Email: _____

Guidelines	Able to check? Y/N	Guidelines followed? Y/N	Notes
1. Nail polishes do not contain the toxic trio.	Y	N	~75% were not 3-free brand
2. Nail polish remover without acetates.	N		
3. Nail polish thinners without toluene or methyl ethyl ketone (MEK).	N		
4. All workers wear nitrile gloves.	N		
5. Fume ventilation (ditch/hood vents, window fans, ventilated tables, and/or portable charcoal-filtered ventilation machines).	Y	N	
6. Separate area for artificial and gel nail services, with special ventilation.	Y	N	
7. Trains all nail salon workers on safer practices.	N		
8. Tries to use safer artificial nail products or none at all.	N		
9. Does not allow clients to bring in polishes or other products unless toxic trio free.	N		

Other comments
 Use of other PPE?
 Other safety hazards?

Successes

- Versatile outreach strategies
- Sharing workers' stories
 - Being able to have consumers see workers as more “human”
- Laid the foundation for future Collaborative work



Challenges

- Limited window to conduct outreach
- Gaining trust
- Owner-worker dynamics
- Nail salon corporations
- Long-term follow up



Recommendations



- Ensure HNSRP adherence
- Promote policy and green chemistry
 - AB 2775
- Maintain relationships
- Educate workers and consumers about industry hazards and issues
- Assess industry trends

Reflections

“Was money even worth it...? It was all about ‘work, work, work,’ and making money. Now we’re facing the aftermath of it.

- Cathy Dang

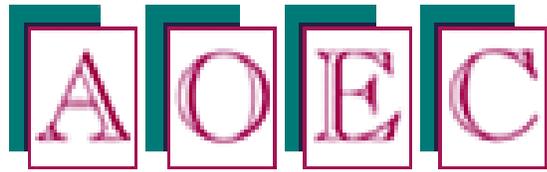
Executive Director, CAAAV: Building Communities

“Me and my sisters would have lunch together in the little room in the back...we would always be reading these old copies of Lady Home Journal.... And in down hours we would paint our nails all these crazy colors and it was nice family time. We were all there for each other.”

- Vy Nguyen

Program Associate, Weingart Foundation

Acknowledgements



ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CLINICS

