

Addressing Special Populations: Immigrant Workers in California

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Immigrant Workers Are Silent In Sickness And in Health

THERE ARE few things more sacred to immigrants than the stories told within their communities. Together, these stories are an onerous survival guide for immigrants in the United States of America. In it are the names of Americans who have helped others find jobs or a place to live. But more important are the lessons

Immigration and Naturalization Services, and will deport them if they come in for care. It's because of these 10-year-old laws, who's only to say he's from Southern California, that he can't work as a cook for two months.

arrived at St. Louis health clinic. Their expectations were high. They had heard that the U.S. was a land of opportunity. They had heard that the U.S. was a land of freedom. They had heard that the U.S. was a land of hope.



THE FRISCO BOY

AM Sunday, September 5, 1993

Hispanics risk life, limb to work in unsafe U.S. factories

Study finds they take disproportionate risk compared to other workers

By David Freedman
Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

For Hispanic Immigrants, a Higher Job-Injury Risk

By PETER Y. KILBORN
Specialist for the New York Times

CHICAGO — Hispanic factory and industrial workers in the United States get hurt on the job more often and

they show that Hispanic workers, both legal and illegal immigrants, also have injury and illness rates that are two or three times higher than non-Hispanic white Americans who take the same

machinery and handling chemicals, the workers face greater risks than other Americans. Being weak in English also makes it harder to find other work, so the workers are less likely to quit on

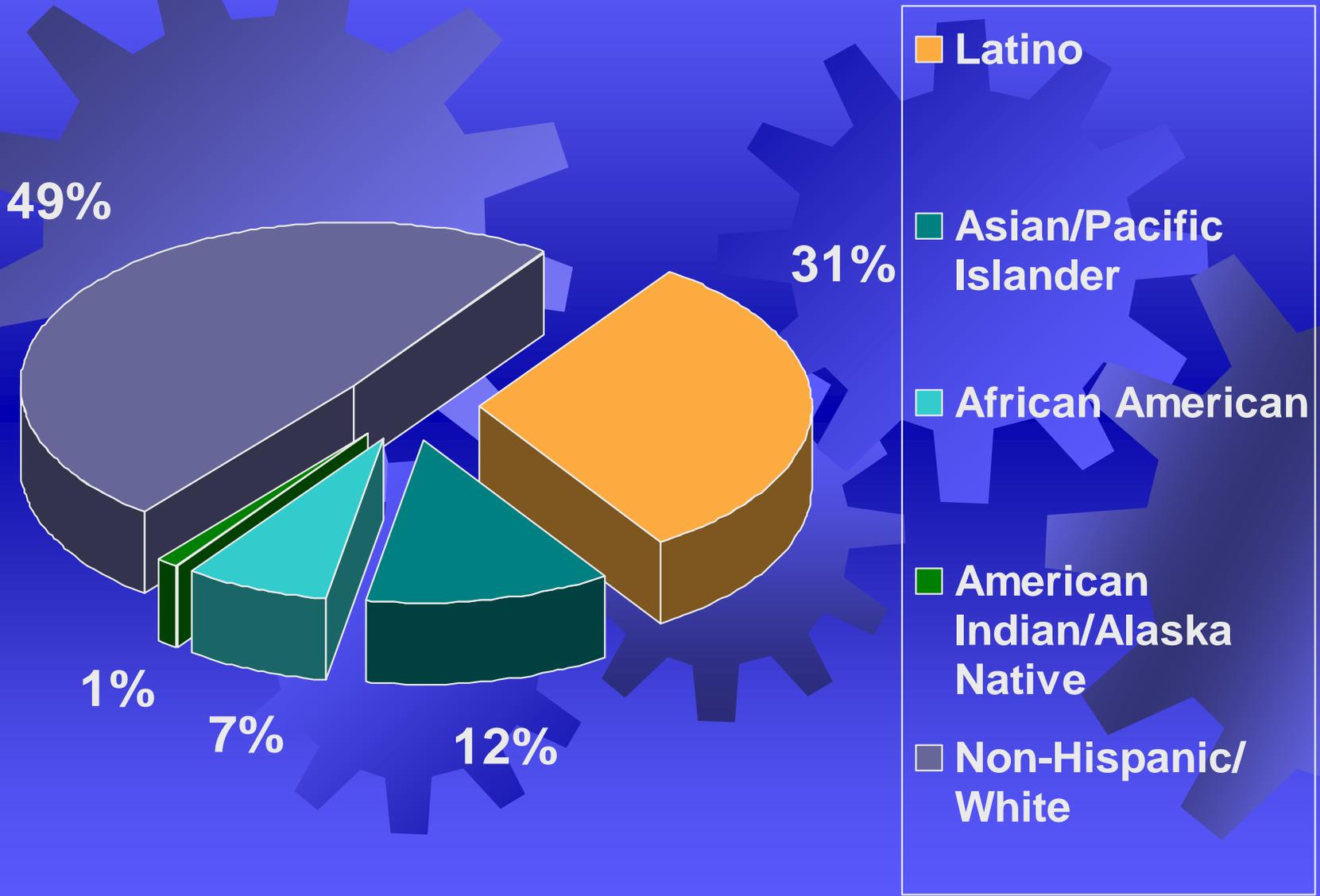
The fear of deportation keeps illegal workers quiet

conditions and cases, justifying the closure of the workplace. Part of the had spent nearly a decade in a Hispanic colony, a The more successfully from the ATIS. Attorney playore and safe with most ties to the student d... that

Firm Put Untrained Immigrants At Risk to Remove Asbestos

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced last Friday that Construction Personnel Inc. (CPI) — also known as Service Management Inc. — of Chattanooga, Tenn., and several of its employees pleaded guilty to federal charges on Dec. 5 for planning to bring unauthorized workers into the U.S. to remove asbestos without proper training. CPI pleaded guilty to, among other offenses, ...

California Population 1999: 33,813,642



Major industries by ethnicity and nativity, 1996. California

	White	Black	Latino Native	Latino Foreign	Asian Native	Asian Foreign
Agriculture	28%	1%	6%	62%	--	3%
Construction	62%	4%	9%	20%	--	4%

	Personal		Total	
	Native	Foreign	Native	Foreign
Manufacturing	8%	25%	1%	15%
Personal Services	7%	27%	1%	11%
Total	56%	6%	8%	17%

Immigrants hold more dangerous occupations

	White	Black	Latino native	Latino foreign	Asian native	Asian foreign
Professional/ Technical workers	71%	5%	6%	5%	3%	10%
sales workers	65%	5%	10%	5%	3%	10%
Crafts workers	54%	5%	10%	20%	2%	8%
Operatives	32%	4%	10%	42%	1%	11%
Laborers	30%	5%	9%	49%	1%	5%
Service workers	38%	7%	8%	36%	1%	9%
Total	56%	6%	8%	17%	2%	10%

Estimated Undocumented Population in California

1.4 million

Industries dependent on undocumented labor

- ⇒ **Light manufacturing**
- ⇒ **Agriculture**
- ⇒ **Food processing**
- ⇒ **Hotel and Restaurants**
- ⇒ **Garment**
- ⇒ **Transportation**
- ⇒ **Residential construction and building services**
- ⇒ **Retail Trade**
- ⇒ **Health care**
- ⇒ **Domestic care**

Increased Risk of Injury and Illness

Greater Risk:

Latino men: 2 times more likely

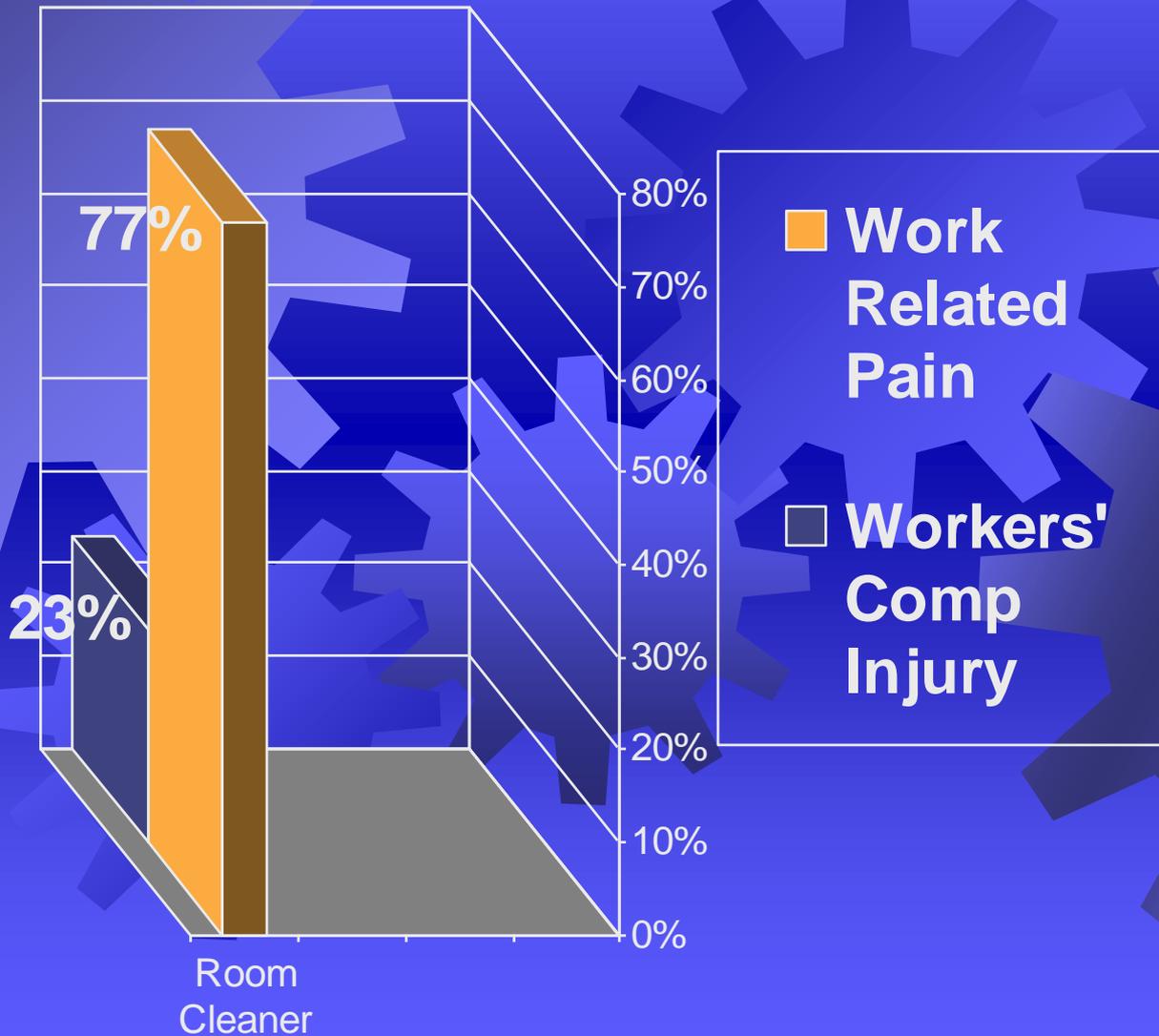
Latina women: 1.5 times more likely

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- **Adults with very high blood lead levels: 46% were Latino.**
 - **Korean workers in LA: 40% suffered injuries requiring treatment or lost workdays.**
 - **Victims of serious accidents in LA: 3 in 4 had Spanish surnames.**
 - **Day laborers in LA: twice the rate for construction workers in California.**

Fatalities

- Disproportionate share of victims of workplace violence
- 40% increase in fatalities among Latinos in construction
- Latinos accounted for 67% of manufacturing-related fatalities in LA.

Less Likely to Report Injuries



Experience from our training program

Workers' Rights:

➤ Training:

➤ Not aware of Regulations/Cal-OSHA:

or injury

- Unaware of Hazard Communication or Injury and Illness Prevention Program requirements
- Have no knowledge of Cal/OSHA
- Express cynicism toward the role of inspectors

Taking Action to Improve Health and Safety

Following training, Spanish-speaking workers attempted action as often as English speakers. However, they were only half as successful in achieving changes.

Special Challenges: Factors that impact health and safety risk

1. Immigration Status
2. Lack of training/knowledge of laws
3. "Informal" jobs
4. No health insurance
5. Cultural differences
6. Language barriers
7. Priority of work
8. Exposure at work and home

Approaches to Prevention

1. Comprehensive education and outreach programs to reach workers and employers

Workers:

- Culturally and linguistically appropriate programs
- Partner with community-based organizations, unions, and county programs

Employers:

- Provide demonstration programs
- Emphasize importance of training in workers' primary language

The background features a blue gradient with several overlapping gear shapes in various shades of blue and grey. On the left side, there is a vertical strip with a colorful, abstract, and somewhat pixelated pattern in shades of orange, red, and brown.

2. Improve access to care

3. Improve training regulations and enforcement efforts

➤ Bilingual inspectors

4. Research to better document problem

5. Support rights of workers to join a union