

Nail Salon Workers and Reproductive Justice: Overexposed & Underinformed



CALIFORNIA
healthy nail salon
COLLABORATIVE

Nail Salon Workers and Owners

- ❑ 60-80% are Vietnamese in CA
- ❑ 95% are women of child-bearing age
- ❑ Most are recent immigrants with limited English
- ❑ Lack access to health care and legal services
- ❑ Most earn less than \$18,200 per year



Why Nail Salon Work?



Toxic Trio



Chemical	Possible Health Effects (cancer & reproductive)
Dibutyl phthalate	Animal studies have suggested low birth weight, cleft palate, asthma. Also found in Glue.
Formaldehyde	Increased risk for cancers of nose and throat. Burning, watering eyes. Skin rashes. Also found in Cigarette smoke
Toluene	High levels during pregnancy could lead to birth defects and stunt mental abilities and growth. Also found in explosives, glue, paint thinner.

Reproductive Health Concerns

- × **Birth Defects**
- × **Miscarriages**
- × **Difficulty conceiving**
- × **Cancer**



Other Health Concerns

- ❑ **Acute symptoms & illnesses**
 - ❑ **Respiratory illness**
 - ❑ **Rashes and skin irritation**
 - ❑ **Nose and throat irritation**
- ❑ **Chronic pain**
 - ❑ **Carpal tunnel**
 - ❑ **Back pain**

Other Workplace Concerns

- ❑ Regular exposure of multiple chemicals at high levels
- ❑ Poor ventilation system
- ❑ Lack of culturally & linguistically appropriate materials and trainings
- ❑ Ergonomics
- ❑ No attention to health symptoms leading to illness





C A L I F O R N I A
healthy nail salon
C O L L A B O R A T I V E

- Alameda County Public Health Nursing
- Asian Advocacy Project of Community Action Marin
- Asian Americans for Civil Rights & Equality
- Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice
- Asian Health Services
- Asian Immigrant Women's Alliance
- Asian Law Caucus
- Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
- Asian Pacific American Legal Center
- Northern and Southern California Nail Salon Workers & Owners
- Black Women for Wellness
- Breast Cancer Action
- Breast Cancer Fund
- CA Department of Public Health, HESIS
- California Pan Ethnic Health Network
- Center for Environmental Health
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Environmental Finance Center, Region 9
- National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
- Northern California Cancer Center
- OC Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance
- Planned Parenthood Golden Gate
- Physicians for Social Responsibility - L.A.
- UCLA Labor Occupation Safety and Health
- United Food & Commercial Workers Div 5
- United Hair and Nail Association
- U.S. EPA Region 9
- Vietnamese Community of Orange County
- Women's Voices of the Earth
- Worksafe

Policy



OVEREXPOSED & UNDERINFORMED

*Dismantling Barriers to
Health and Safety in
California Nail Salons*

REPORT & POLICY AGENDA
APRIL 2009



Building Bridges



Research



Industry



Outreach



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