



***Culturally Appropriate
Methods to Collect Data and
Give Voice for Brazilians in
Massachusetts: The
Experience of Project
COBWEB***

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Method 1: Cultural Conversations

- Cultural Conversations are focus groups with less focus and more freedom for participants to talk. The idea is to have a free flowing dialogue with interviewees.
- A mix of unstructured group interviews + listening sessions.

Method 1: Cultural Conversations

- Six 1.5 h cultural conversations were conducted with groups of 5-7 Brazilian immigrants by type of work (painters, food and restaurant, youth, housecleaners, small construction contractors, and landscapers).
- Conversations were transcribed and analyzed for themes with N VivoTM software for qualitative analysis.

Method 2: Survey Design

- Decentering was the translation method used for survey questions. Both languages (Portuguese and English) equally important.
- Survey was designed simultaneously in Portuguese English. Equivalence of concepts was dealt with simultaneously, without literal translation from English to Portuguese or vice-versa.

Survey Design (cont.)

- Survey translation remains open until conceptual clarity and appropriate grammatical structures are achieved.
- Advantage of the method is that questions become more culturally appropriate (ex: scales in some questions or words that are not easy to translate).

Method 3: Photo-Voice

- Photo-voice is a participatory health promotion strategy in which people use cameras to document their health and work reality. As participants engage in a group process of critical reflection, they may advocate for changes in their communities by using the power of their images and stories to communicate with policymakers.

Wang and Red-wood Jones

Photo-Voice (cont.)



Photo-Voice (cont.)

- Photos allowed a group of Brazilian immigrants to discuss with an OSHA inspector the hazards they perceived.
- Inspector suggested other hazards not perceived by group and discussed OSHA standards that addressed the hazards identified.

Photo-Voice (cont.)

- Quilt to hold pictures was a practical way to keep photos together.
- Brazilian immigrant workers developed questions about the photos that were answered in plasticized cards stored in pockets sown in the quilt.

Photo-Voice (cont.)



Method 4: Popular Theater/Video

- DVD “My Dream Our Reality” is a community produced video based on a play developed by group Ponto de Partida and Mariana Wagner (educator). Augusto Boal and Paulo Freire inspired the development of popular education tools to educate Brazilian immigrants.
- Script was developed with group input and is based on real life cases of workplace injuries that affected Brazilian workers in Massachusetts.

Method 5: Community-based Surveillance

- Collection and dissemination of information on injuries and fatalities of Brazilian workers based on Brazilian community network channels.
- Collection of information about fatality and injuries through Brazilian newspapers + phone calls+ contacts with friends and family of victims, as well as with coworkers or house mates.

Community-based Surveillance (cont.)

- Dissemination of bilingual alerts and information to community in churches, at the Brazilian Immigrant Center, and through newspapers and radio shows.
- Telling the stories of the families who lost their loved ones in the workplace.

Fatality Alerts

workplace

SAFETY ALERT



From the Occupational Health Surveillance Program, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

18-year-old Brazilian died on the job when a shoplifter stabbed him

In February 2004, tragedy struck when a Brazilian worker was assaulted during a shoplifting incident. The victim, an 18-year-old male, was fatally stabbed during an assault outside of the store. The victim was employed by a local pharmacy where he provided general help. The shoplifter exited the store with stolen items and the store manager went after him. The 18-year-old worker noticed that the shoplifter had stabbed the store manager and went outside to help his boss. While trying to help his boss, the 18-year-old was fatally stabbed by the shoplifter.

Tips to keep yourself safe on the job:

- If you think some part of your job is not safe, talk to your co-workers. You can talk to your boss together.
- Ask your boss for safety training for any machine you use, even if you have used that kind of machine before.
- If you can not understand warning and safety signs at your job, ask your boss to post signs in your language.
- If you are in a union, talk to a union representative.

You have a right to ask for health and safety information and protection. It is illegal for your employer to fire you if you do so!

You have health and safety rights on the job!

All workers have health and safety rights in the workplace: citizens and non-citizens, documented and undocumented workers. Employers have to follow occupational health and safety regulations.

Your employer has to:

- Provide you with a safe workplace that is free of serious recognized hazards.
- Train you how to work safely around dangerous chemicals (that you work with or work near).
- Make sure you have and use safe and properly maintained tools and equipment.
- Make sure all employees are covered under "Workers' Compensation" insurance (Workers' Compensation is a state system that provides medical benefits and money for workers who get hurt on the job).

For more information

Coalition for a better work environment for Brazilians (COBWEB)
Tel: (617) 783-3001 ext. 6
Tel: (978) 934-3147

Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health (MassCOSH) helps workers with health and safety problems on the job
Tel: 617-825-7233 ext. 10
www.masscosh.org

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) handles complaints of serious hazards
Tel: 617-565-9860
www.osha.gov

Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents (DIA) administers Workers' Compensation
Tel: 617-727-4900 x470
www.mass.gov/dia

ALWAYS: If you need an interpreter, ask for one as soon as you make the call!

Immigrant Worker Families - Stories after Fatalities



Community-based Surveillance (cont.)

- Commitment to actions that can change workplace policy and/or procedures. Examples:
- Campaign against violence in retail establishments, especially shoplifting.
- Campaign to improve safety in granite construction shops (together with OSHA).

Teen Report on Workplace Violence

Teens Affected By Workplace Violence

A report by the MassCOSH Teens Lead @ Work Peer Leaders
and the Brazilian Immigrant Center GUMBWEB Peer Leaders

“...gone but never forgotten...”



Cristian Ribeiro Glambrone
1985-2004

BIC-OSHA Alliance



Method 6: Training with Fun

- Training of construction workers using local comedian (former construction worker) and satire to educate workers about construction health and safety hazards and safe practices. Idea came from similar experience in Bahia, Brazil.
- Hands on approach to PPE + games + photos and video (nothing new to popular educators).

Seu (Mr.) Zé

