

Implementing a teen educator developed survey for characterizing risk of immigrant occupational health problems: Somerville, MA



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Teen Educators and Immigrant Occupational Health in Somerville, MA

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Teen educators and immigrant occupational health: Somerville, MA



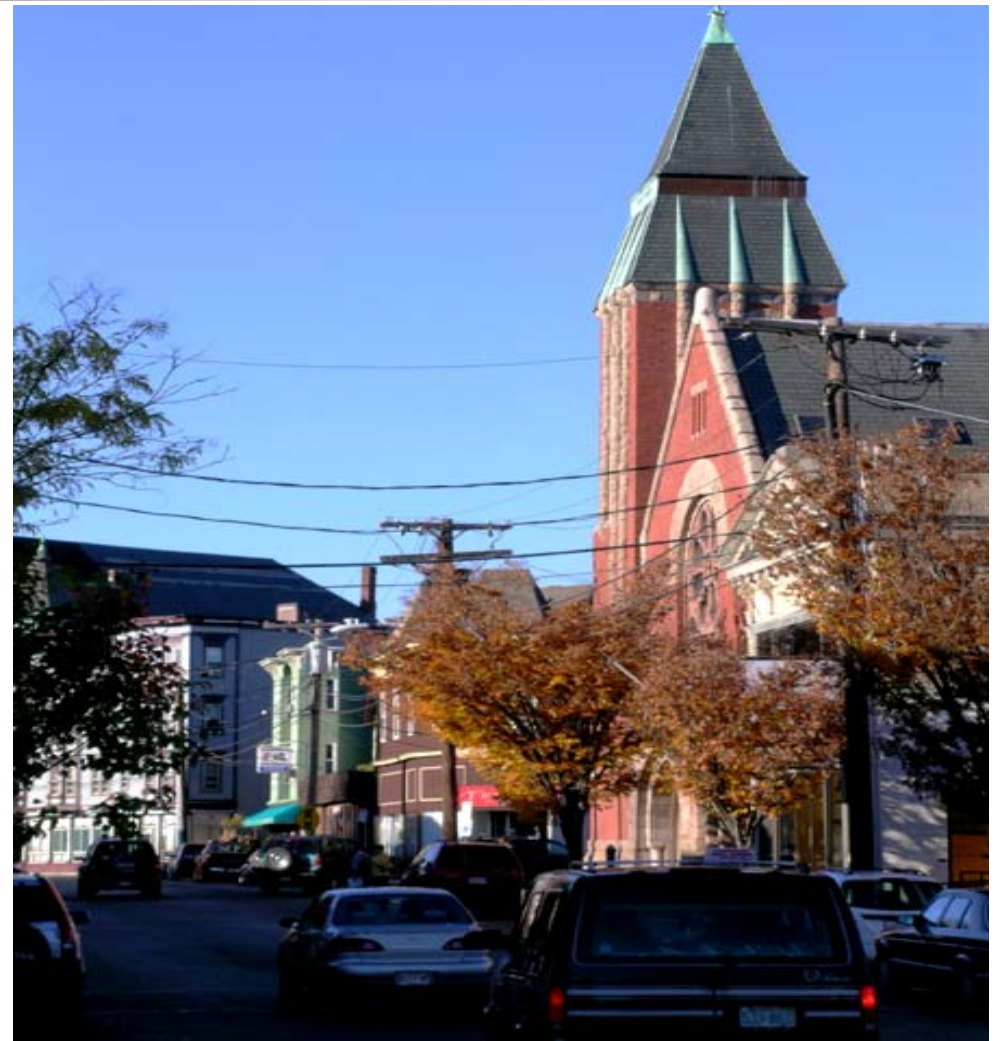
■ Partners

- Immigrant Service Providers Group
- Haitian Coalition
- Brazilian Women's Group
- Community Action Agency of Somerville
- Cambridge Health Alliance - Cambridge Hospital
- Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Health and Safety

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■ Research Goals

- Provide an annual needs assessment of occupational health and safety among immigrant workers in Somerville, MA
- Develop trained, fluently bi-lingual teenaged children of new immigrants as a method of implementing a survey to obtain information about occupational health and safety in the community from immigrant workers
- Support the start-up of a new community organization to provide occupational health and safety training, education, and health referral services to Brazilian domestic workers who live and/or work in Somerville



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- Community Goals
 - Transfer research capability to the community
 - Research training for community partners and organizations - including IRB qualification
 - Survey development and implementation with “teen educators”
 - Development of protocols for data collection
 - Partner involvement in data analysis and dissemination of results
 - Create a new community service capability
 - Creation of a new community organization to provide services for Brazilian domestic workers



Teen educators and immigrant occupational health: Somerville, MA

- Baseline Immigrant Worker Survey
 - questions, layout, and format were developed by teen educators with assistance from community partners
 - Reviewed and edited by Tufts researchers
- The process included meetings with Tufts faculty to instruct the teen educators and the community partners on aspects of preparing surveys and asking research questions
- The teens were also given instruction on the history of research abuse and the emergence of IRB requirements and review
- This process resulted in a large transfer of knowledge and capability to both the teens and community partners in the Somerville immigrant community
- Several of our community partners have become IRB certified investigators via the Tufts IRB
- Here is their survey....

Somerville Immigrant Occupational Safety Survey

These questions will help us better understand the safety and employment needs of our community members. You will not be asked to sign your name or identify yourself. You can stop the survey anytime you want.

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions.

BACKGROUND

1. In what country were you born? (write in) _____
2. How long have you lived in the United States? (check one):
 Less than 1 year 1-3 years 4-6 years 7-9 years 10-12 years 13-15 years More than 15 years
3. In what country or countries were your parents born? (write in): _____
4. What language do you use at home most of the time? (write in, one language only): _____
5. What other languages do you speak?:
 Spanish Portuguese Haitian Creole English Other (write in) _____
6. Are you... (check one) Male Female
7. How old are you? (check one) 18-20 21-30 31-45 46-54 55-65 66-79 Over 79
8. In what city or town do you live now? (write in): _____

OCCUPATION:

9. Who do you work for? (check one):
 One Regular employer (boss) Many different employers Self employed Currently unemployed
10. Do you work at one job or more than one job? (check one): One job More than one
11. What kind of work do you do at your primary job? (write in) _____
12. If you work more than one job, what other kind of work do you do? (write in): _____
13. Where do you do your work (for all jobs, examples: outdoors, in an office, restaurant, in my home, factory, hospital) (write in): _____
14. Did you receive any type of training for your job or jobs? (check one): Yes No
15. If you have a profession that you cannot currently practice, what is it?: _____

HEALTH AND SAFETY

16. Did you receive job training that was specifically about health and safety? (check one): Yes No
17. A hazard is anything that can harm you, injure you or affect your health. Are there hazards in the work you do?
 Yes (write in type of hazard, use back of sheet if necessary): _____ No Don't Know
18. Are you covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? Plan name: _____ No Don't know
19. Do you know your rights under Massachusetts Workers' Compensation laws? (check one): Yes No
20. Have you ever been injured at work? Yes, once Yes, more than once No (if no, end interview now, otherwise)
21. Was the most recent injury officially reported? (check one): Yes No
22. For the most recent injury, did you receive treatment? Yes No
23. For the most recent injury where do you go for treatment? - be specific, if possible: _____
24. If yes, how did you pay for treatment? Workman's Compensation Self Employer

APPROVED

APR 0 4 2007

Tufts SBER IRB

EXPIRES

APR 2 4 2008

Tufts SBER IRB



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- The teen educators also helped develop the verbal consent form for the survey
- We held trainings on what consent is and why the IRB found it necessary using historical examples
- We trained on how to obtain verbal consent and specifically why consent was important in this project
- Here is their verbal consent form



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Verbal Consent Script for Somerville Immigrant Occupational Health and Safety Survey

Project Title: Teen Educator Administered Survey

My name is _____, and I am (STATE WHICH APPLIES) a Teen Educator or a Tufts student working as a Research Assistant on a research activity being conducted by Tufts University. The Principal Investigator of this activity is Professor David Gute of Tufts University. I am conducting research on occupational health risks in immigrant populations in Somerville.

As a participant in this research, you will be asked a series of short questions concerning employment and health. Your name will not appear in this research, although the research will contain recommendations to improve occupational health and safety for those who work and live in Somerville.

If you agree to participate in this research, the interview will take approximately 10 minutes. It will be administered by myself. You may decline to participate, and you may stop, skip questions or ask questions at any point in the process.

This research is not intended to cause you any emotional or psychological harm. You may stop the survey at any time. You do not have to participate. If you would like time to make up your mind please let me know.

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the survey.

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- We asked two of our teen educators what they had learned through their involvement
- Both reported that they had never really thought much about any aspect of work other than that you had to do it (both see themselves as contributing to the family economy)



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■ Roberto:

- “now aware of rights as a worker; as a teen – what age you have to be, jobs that you shouldn’t be required or asked to do, the idea that in general there was such as thing as rights that applied to the area of ‘work,’ for workers in general – that you should learn about and avoid hazards”



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- Daphney:
 - “That work can be hazardous and that you can be aware of specific hazards and do things to protect yourself and learning where to go and what to do if you are injured”





Teen educators and immigrant occupational health: Somerville, MA

- They learn from us – we learn from them
- Comments from our community partners
 - “One of the areas the teen educators noted was work at a supermarket
 - Jobs such as bagger, stock room, check out are held by both immigrant teens and adults
 - Three of our teens held these kinds of positions and began to talk about injuries/physical discomfort that they had experienced such as aching feet, sore backs, and sore wrists from dragging items across the check out scanners”



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- They learn from us – we learn from them
- Comments from our community partners
 - “The learning piece was that the training materials tend to focus on dramatic problems, getting stuck in a wood chipper, burns from hot fat, back injuries from loading a truck, etc
 - Everyone knew that the supermarket jobs could cause physical problems, but conceptually they were seen as something slightly different, ‘part of the job’ or ‘it just happens and I feel better in a day or so’
 - The next step for us was to reflect this back adding the concept that these were work injuries and every bit as serious as the more vivid ones
 - In this particular session we spent some time talking about wrist injuries and did a short anatomy lesson on the complexities of the joint and what causes carpal tunnel syndrome”



Teen educators and immigrant occupational health: Somerville, MA

- They learn from us – we learn from them
- Comments from our community partners
 - “The lesson is that the teen educators are undoubtedly mirroring attitudes about injury that are held in the adult immigrant worker community which is that work and low-level injury are somehow natural, part of the way things are
 - The cumulative effect of small injuries is clearly serious, from a health perspective; chronic illness, much of it muscular-skeletal; carpal tunnel syndrome, thoracic outlet syndrome, chronic injuries to foot and ankle, and rotator cuff tears to name a few
 - Interventions at a much earlier stage would, of course, prevent much of this
 - The challenge is to shift the perception of what is natural and ‘just part of the job’ in the work place”

Thank You

