

# Cancer Health Education Preferences among Miami-Dade County Construction Workers

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## INTRODUCTION

- Construction workers are an underserved occupational group with limited health insurance who are at high risk for cancer given occupational exposures (e.g., asbestos, diesel exhaust, sun exposure) as well as adverse personal health risk profiles (e.g., smoking, poor diets).
- Construction workers are a transient occupation, which pose unique challenges for worksite outreach programs for cancer risk assessment.

## OBJECTIVE

- Examine the feasibility and acceptability of conducting paired cancer risk assessment and cancer prevention intervention activities to construction worksites via “lunch trucks”.

## METHODS

- Construction workers from a large construction site in Florida were administered a brief questionnaire.
- Data on demographic, smoke exposure status, interest in obtaining health education information (smoking cessation, skin cancer prevention), and their acceptability of using onsite lunch trucks as a delivery method, and the most acceptable form of recruitment incentives were tabulated

Figure 1. Best Methods for Disseminating Information on Risk Exposure to Construction Workers

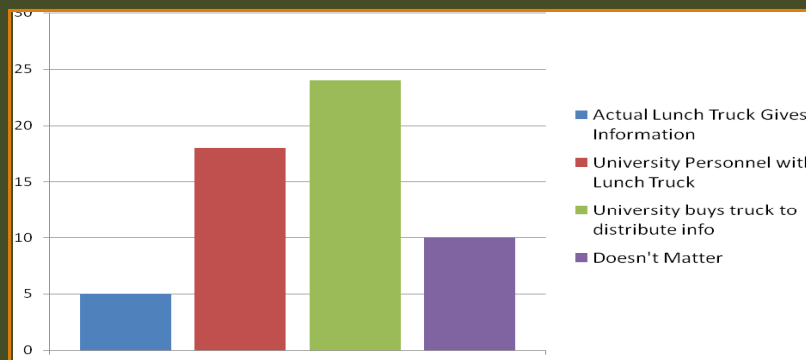


Table 1. Smoke Exposure and UV Protection Use among 57 Miami-Dade Construction Workers

	Smokes cigarettes	Smokes cigars	Chews tobacco	Uses sunscreen at work	Uses long sleeve shirt at work	Uses protective cloth under hard hat to protect ears and neck
<b>Total</b>	31 (54.4%)	11 (19.3%)	2 (3.5%)	9 (15.8%)	15 (26.3%)	4 (7.0%)
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	27 (87.1%)	8 (72.7%)	0 (0.0%)	8 (88.9%)	11 (73.3%)	2 (50.0%)
Female	4 (12.9%)	3 (27.3%)	2 (100.0%)	1 (11.1%)	4 (26.7%)	1 (25.0%)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
White Hispanic	12 (38.7%)	8 (72.7%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (44.4%)	11 (73.3%)	1 (25.0%)
Black Hispanic	1 (3.2%)	1 (9.1%)	1 (50.0%)	1 (11.1%)	2 (13.3%)	1 (25.0%)
Black non-Hispanic	6 (19.4%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (13.3%)	0 (0.0%)
White non-Hispanic	9 (29.0%)	1 (9.1%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (44.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Other	1 (3.2%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)

## RESULTS

- Among the 57 completed questionnaires, seven self-reported being female (12.3%) and twenty-nine were White Hispanic (50.9%).
- Over 50% of the construction workers were current smokers of cigarettes, 3.5% chewed tobacco, and 19.3% smoked cigars.
- Of the current smokers, 80.1% expressed interest to quit smoking and 64.9% were willing to receive smoking cessation materials free of charge from a lunch truck at the construction site.

## CONCLUSION

- Construction workers exhibit high smoking rates, but reported they are interested in quitting.
- Health education, cancer screening and smoking cessation activities all provided via a lunch truck may be a practical way to address health-related health disparities in the construction workforce.