Nail Salon Workers and Reproductive Justice:
Overexposed & Underinformed

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

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

Policy

- 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 Asian American Health & Equity
- 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

Building Bridges

- Techniques to Achieve Naturally Healthy Hair

Research

Industry
Outreach

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