

Presentation Title	Place in Schedule
Assessing Latino Workers' Health: Concerns about Personal Health and the Workplace Environment	Poster Session <i>Day 2 – Wednesday – May 9th, 2018</i> <i>8:30am-9:30am</i>
Description of Presentation	Presenter Name(s) And Credentials
<p>(a) Statement of the problem While the Latino population experiences health disparities related to chronic diseases, there is limited data available with regards to occupational exposures and personal health behaviors. Therefore the aims of this study are to identify the health needs, knowledge, attitudes and behavioral factors associated with chronic diseases, and to characterize the workplace and home exposures to environmental toxicants to inform intervention studies among Latino workers at the University of Maryland (UMD).</p> <p>(b) Methods We conducted three focus groups with 28 Latino Spanish-speaking employees at UMD using purposive sampling from three working groups: (1) Facilities Management, (2) Residential Facilities, and (3) Dining Services. Focus groups were moderated in Spanish by a bilingual Latina female with considerable qualitative research experience. Spanish transcripts were entered into QSR NVivo qualitative software (Version 10) and coded according to a preliminary code scheme developed from the focus group protocol and research questions. We approached focus group data analysis from a modified grounded theory perspective, thus the preliminary codebook was expanded to reflect response diversity within topics and to include new information that arose outside of pre-determined inquiry areas.</p> <p>(c) Results Personal Health Participants mentioned health-promoting behaviors, and the balance between family and individual time. They placed a high value on health, a blessing from God, something to worry about, and that enabled them to live a fulfilling life. Major health concerns were non-communicable diseases, including obesity, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and mental health. To address health concerns, participants suggested</p>	Lesliam Quiros-Alcala, PhD <i>University of Maryland</i>
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eating a healthy diet, being physically active, having regular doctor appointments, relieving stress, seeking family support, and educating the Latino community about health.

Workplace Environment

In terms of the workplace environment, respondents mentioned: safety and physical hazards, such as burns, cuts, dust inhalation, heat, slips, and falls; and biological hazards, such as airborne pathogens, and blood. In terms of chemical exposure, respondents mentioned the type, frequency, quantity, and methods of application that influenced their level of risk. Participants mentioned a lack of knowledge of the contents of chemical cleaners and limited adherence to recommended applications, dilution, or other instructions related to the chemicals. Specific chemicals and symptoms related to their use were also of concern.

(d) Practical/theoretical Implications and Conclusions

Before developing programs to address the total health of Latino workers at UMD it is necessary to first assess and understand the personal health and workplace environment of the Latino workers from their perspective. According to the results of our focus groups both health-promoting behaviors and the workplace environment/occupational safety and health play a role in their total health. The Latino workers reported concerns about non-communicable diseases, such as, obesity and diabetes. They also mentioned workplace safety and physical hazards, such as, heat and slippery floors, and biological hazards. Findings from this qualitative phase informed our second phase, currently ongoing, which includes a survey and collection of biospecimens. Our results will assist in informing future interventions in total worker health that address reducing chronic disease and workplace hazards.