

PROJECT ALTO: ARIZONA LABOR TRAFFICKING OUTREACH

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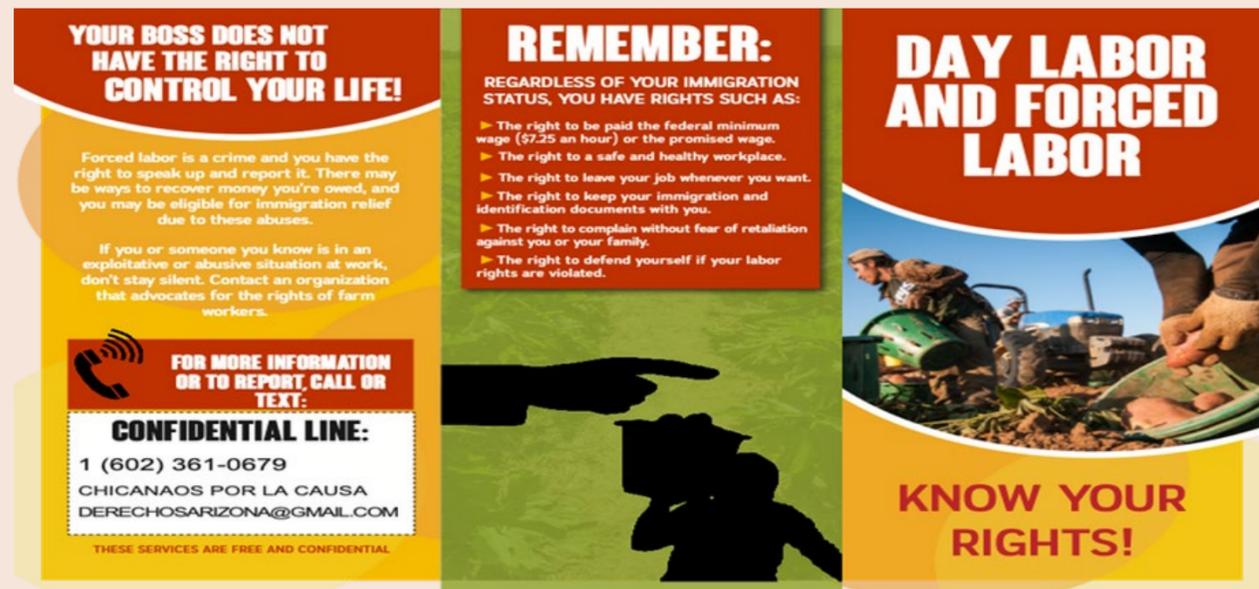
INTRODUCTION

- Current landscape of anti-trafficking efforts unique to addressing labor trafficking situations
 - Stakeholder grants are inclusive of victims of labor trafficking; still have a low number of this population enrolled in services
- What subgroups are more likely to encounter labor trafficking?
 - There is a high demand for day laborers around the valley
 - Hired for short-term manual labor jobs including plumbing, landscaping, roofing
 - Sometimes undocumented; mostly limited-English; sometimes isolated from family and friends

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Human Trafficking Leadership Academy Class 6 recommendation for preventing labor trafficking: **conduct safe outreach to undocumented laborers**
- Community partners: ASU STIR, Chicanos Por La Causa, Consulate General of Mexico, Consulate General of Guatemala, International Rescue Committee, McCain Institute
- **Mission:** Support undocumented workers and those involved in informal labor with developing a better understanding of labor rights and increasing awareness of services available in the community

METHODOLOGY



- Developed screening tool
 - Demographics
 - Resources checklist: Housing, transportation, hygiene products, clothing, detox/drug treatment, employment assistance, food assistance, legal/immigration assistance, case management
 - Trafficking-specific questions
- Scouted locations (Home Depot, Circle K, ARCO gas stations) in central Phoenix and East valley
 - Incorporated feedback from multiple Reddit posts discussing locations of day laborers
- Printed Know Your Rights materials (pamphlets and shoe cards) in English and Spanish
- Purchased food and drink and assembled snack packs
- Centralized around Spanish speaking staff and volunteers



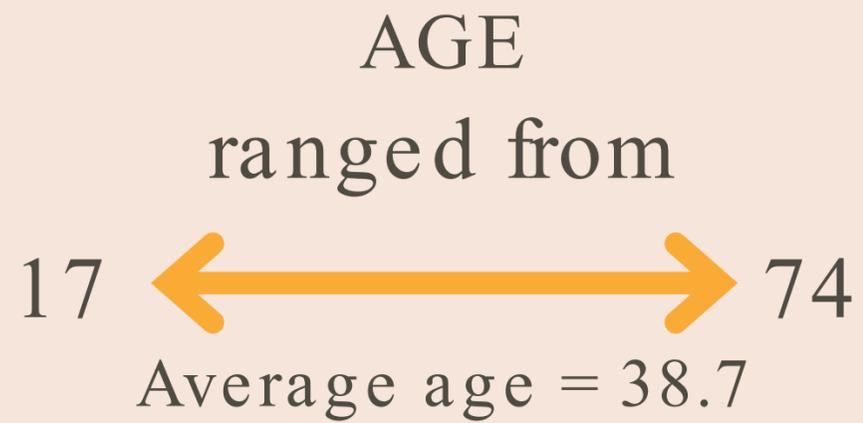
OUTREACH

Between September 2021 and April 2022...

The team met with over 200 day laborers
143 agreed to complete an intake

DEMOGRAPHICS

(n=143)



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



SEX



96.5% (n=144) identified as males

LANGUAGE

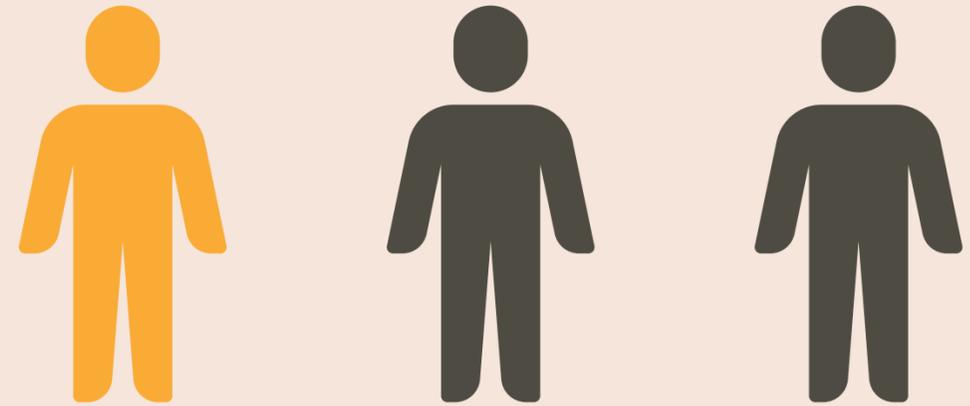


96.5% (n=144) spoke only Spanish

FINDINGS

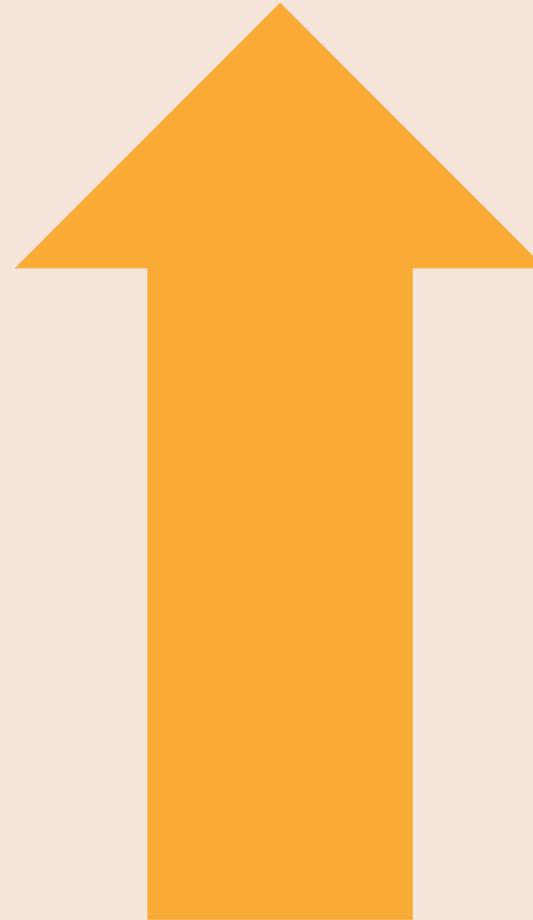
Almost 1 out of 3 day laborers reported being promised work where the work or payment were different than expected or promised.

(n = 44)



FINDINGS

Very high rate of
reports of labor
disputes



"I will work and they will tell me that another guy will pay me, and I would leave without getting paid."

"I was picked up at Home Depot to move furniture and was not paid the \$250 that I was told I would earn."

"At the farm I work at, I know a lot of people who don't get paid what they should or were promised."

LESSONS LEARNED

- Day laborers may be at an increased risk for street-level and workplace victimization
 - Street-level: Burglary (“walking ATMs”), physical and sexual assault
 - Workplace: Wage theft, poor job site conditions, abandonment at job site
- Factors that can increase likelihood of victimization:
 - Social isolation (friends and family live elsewhere)
 - Language barrier
 - General distrust of authorities/social service agencies

LESSONS LEARNED (continued)

- Be intentional with building a team who looks like the community we're trying to serve
- Project was well-received at the national level
 - Las Vegas Rape Crisis Center Human Trafficking Response
 - Howard County Government (Maryland)
- Developed Outreach In A Box to easily share

DISCUSSION

- Redefining success
 - Although not many people may follow up with services, they are now equipped with information to help avoid victimization and prevent re-victimization
- Need to expand labor trafficking specific training to service providers and other relevant stakeholders (Dept. of Labor, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, etc.)
- ALTO moving forward
 - What other communities could benefit from outreach that centralizes around a worker's rights based approach?



AVAILABLE BRIEF



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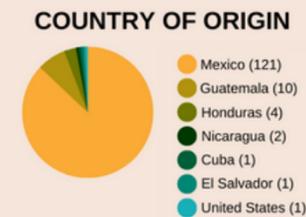
Project ALTO was created by the Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research at Arizona State University to support undocumented workers and those involved in informal labor with developing a better understanding of labor rights as well as increasing awareness of services available in the community.

ISSUE OVERVIEW

Accumulating research continues to demonstrate that undocumented individuals are at a high risk for criminal victimization. Sociocultural factors including fear of deportation, alienation, and general distrust of authorities have been known to exacerbate this phenomenon. Specifically with the day laborer population in Arizona, street-level victimization including robbery and sexual assault have been known to be prevalent. In addition, many of these individuals have also experienced high rates of workplace exploitation including wage theft and poor labor conditions.

THE DATA

In collaboration with other organizations including Chicanos Por La Causa, Consulate General of Mexico, Consulate General of Guatemala, International Rescue Committee, and the McCain Institute, **143** day laborers between September 2021 and April 2022 received Know Your Rights brochures as well as information about services available in the community for legal assistance and case management. Of those spoken with, almost **one out of every 3** (n=44) reported being promised work where the work or payment were different than expected or promised.



DISCUSSION

Unlike with sex trafficking, the topic of labor trafficking prevention remains widely unexplored. However, acknowledging and understanding the social, cultural, and economic factors that place some communities at a higher risk of being trafficked is critical. Increasing awareness of labor rights, challenging historical distrust of social services and authorities through open and honest dialogue, and improving service provider awareness of best practices for serving those with current or past involvement in labor trafficking situations are ways in which the anti-trafficking community at large can better address the needs of this underserved population.