

**WORKING DAY LABOR:**  
*Implications for Health and  
Intervention*

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## Day Labor: The Basics

Public search: Open-air street curb markets

Day labor is steeped in work & labor history

Lower end of the contingent and non-standard workforce

Difficult and dangerous work

Construction, moving, and landscaping

National in scope, significant in size

Political and Xenophobic Context

## Day Labor: The Workers

Almost entirely Male

Overwhelmingly undocumented

Mostly Latino

Relatively young and single

Many recently arrived

Unemployed and eager for work

Working and unemployed poor

## Day Labor: Work

Infrequent and insecure

Poverty level earnings

Abuses are common

Hazards are high

Injuries are numerous

Employers are varied

Some embrace, others are contentious

## Day Labor: Worker Abuse

Wage theft

Workplace indignities (breaks, food, water, bathroom, abandoned)

Dangerous work

Injuries

Miscommunication

Unresolved disagreements

## Day Labor: Violence

- Day laborers as victims 62%
- Day laborers as perpetrators 38%

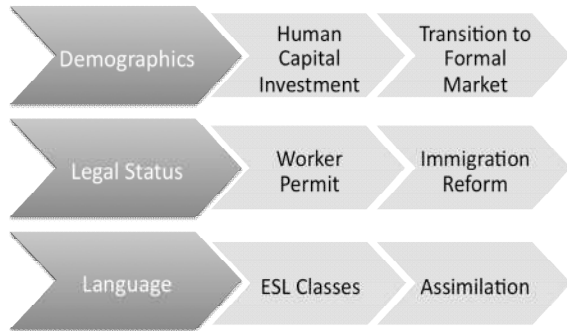
### **Types of violence**

- Searching for work
  - Fighting over jobs, miscellaneous issues, police harassment, employer beating.
- Working
  - Employers acting out (threats, beatings, robbery, fights, sexual requests). Also, police acting out and day laborers acting out on employers.

## Day Labor: A Health Disparity



Explanatory Framework and Intervention:  
(1) Worker Characteristics



Explanatory Framework and Intervention:  
(2) Workplace Regime



Explanatory Framework and Intervention:  
(3) Access to Health Care

