Healthier Nail Salons Project

Organization & Contact Information
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Project Description
The New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH) is a nonprofit membership organization of workers, unions, community-based organizations, health and legal professionals that aims to defend every person’s human right to a safe and healthful work environment. The goals of this project include:

- Raise awareness among nail salon workers in New York City about the health and environmental hazards associated with beauty products and how best to reduce or abate them.
- Develop and disseminate informational and educational materials in four different languages: English, Spanish, Korean and Nepalese.
- Develop a presentation for future workshops with nail salon workers.
- Foster and promote safer working conditions by substituting toxic nail products for safer alternatives and by using ventilated work tables.

Project Results
NYCOSH developed a fact sheet (translated into Spanish, Korean and Nepalese), lesson plan/curriculum, classroom exercises and a webpage that highlight the hazards associated with working at nail salons. The materials addressed how workers can be exposed to chemicals found in many of the products used in beauty care and what actions can be taken to mitigate these hazards. The developed content can be found at http://nycosh.org/index.php?page=nail-salon-hazard-factsheets.

This information was sent to NYCOSH’s constituents via mailings, leafleting, e-mails, website and through their community-based organization network, Adhikaar, A.C.T.S. and Minkwon. In at the Occupational and Environmental Medicine clinics at Bellevue and Long Island Jewish Medical Center helped to disseminate this information as well.