

# Special Issue on: Migration and Occupational Health

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13 articles on global demographics, etiology, interventions and policy issues

# The Short Life and Preventable Death of Maria Isabel Vasquez Jimenez

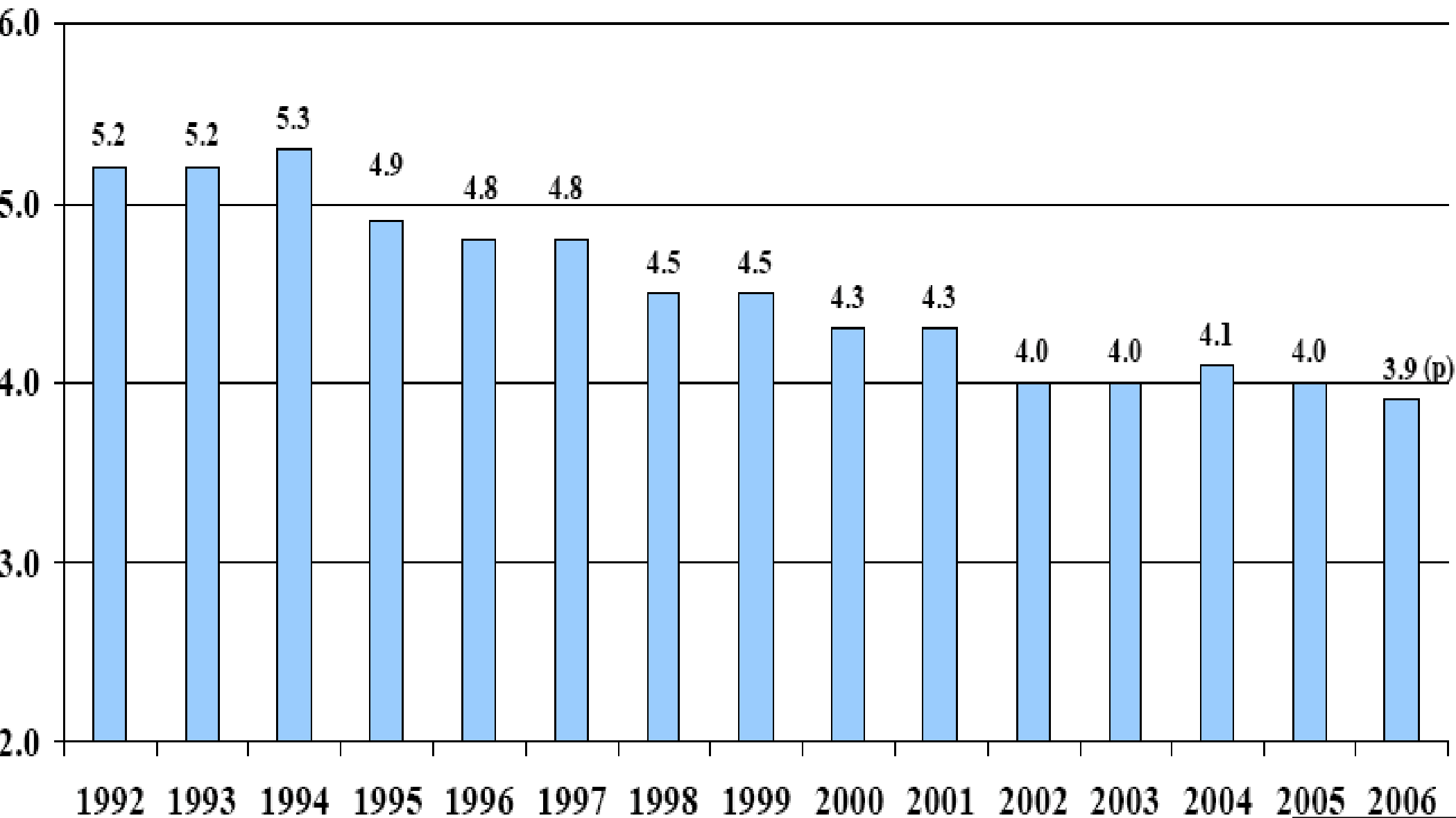
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On May 13, 2008, 17-year old Maria was working in the vineyards in Stockton, CA alongside her fiancée, Florentino Bautista.

Three days later **Maria was dead** from heat stroke.

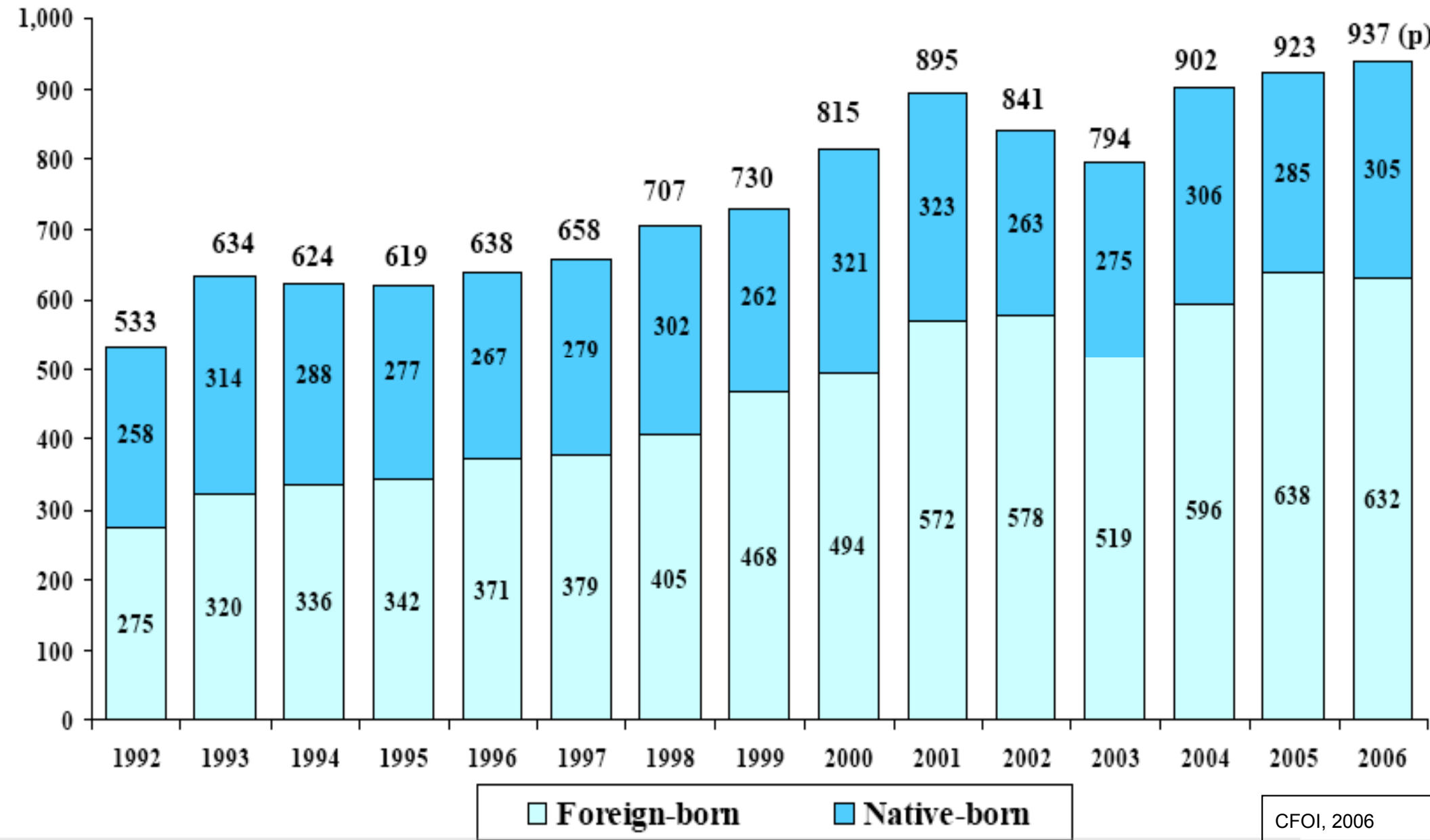


## Rate of fatal work injuries per 100,000 workers, 1992–2006

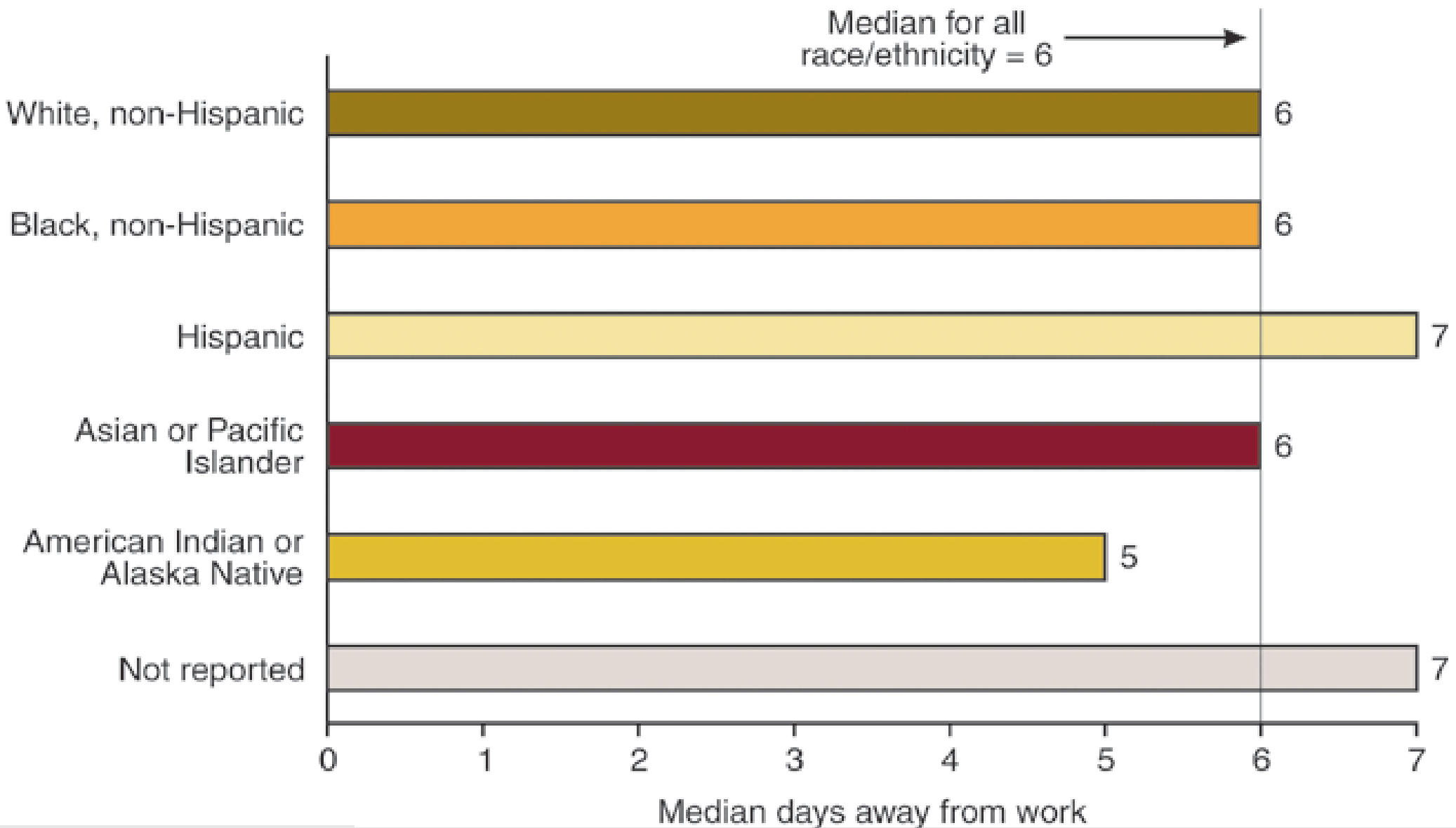


## Number of fatal work injuries involving Hispanic or Latino workers, 1992-2006

Number of fatalities



# Days of Disability from Occupational Injuries, 2001



# Agriculture has been a traditional first occupation for immigrants and remains an entry job today

European immigrants, 1900's



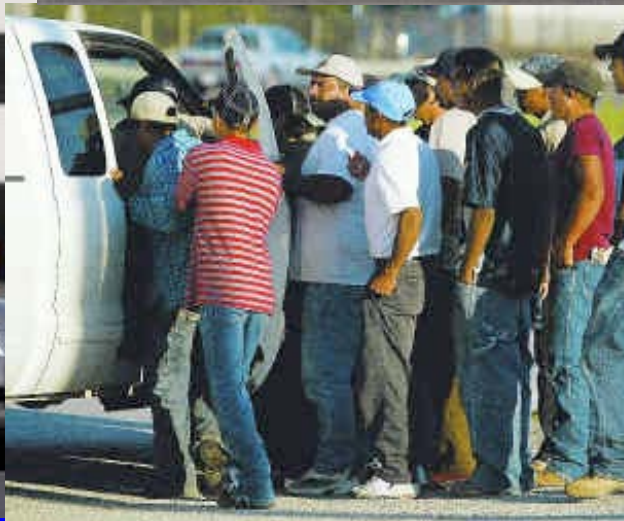
Hispanic immigrant farmworkers, today



Dust bowl migrants, 1930's



# Day Laborers



# Construction Work





# Factors Associated with Increased Injuries Among Immigrants

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- More hazardous jobs and tasks
  - Agriculture, construction, transportation, domestic services, garment
- Linguistic and cultural barriers
- Recent arrival
- Lack of safety training and equipment
- Precarious work
  - Unwilling to complain
  - Risk taking

# Immigrant Workers Exposed to Asbestos During Removal

In November of 2008, Albania Deleon, 39, a U.S. citizen/émigré from the Dominican Republic, was convicted of 28 counts of fraud for selling at least 800 fake asbestos-removal training certificates to foreign workers.



# Thank you!

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# Summary: Where Are We?

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- Immigrants work in the most hazardous jobs and industries and have higher rates of fatal and non-fatal injuries than non-immigrants even within the same occupations
- Health care for immigrant workers is limited, and disability from occupational injuries is greater
- There has been little occupational health, epidemiologic or public health research on this subject
- Immigrant workers deserve the same occupational health and safety protection as non-immigrant workers

# What Needs to be Done?

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- Review current regulations that exempt employees from NLRA, FLSA, OSHA protections.
- Approve the Protecting America's Workers Act (PAWA)
- Fund public health research on analytic, intervention and policy approaches to immigrant worker health
- Improve coverage of migrant workers by workers' compensation
- Develop new models to improve access to health care for migrant workers.
- Ensure the protection of workers in immigration reform

# Acknowledgements

