

## 22nd annual Undergraduate Research Symposium

# Sergio Belalcazar

Poster Session 2: 10:00-10:45/Poster #64



### Investigating the Relationship Between Working Fast and the Risk of Injury in Latin American Construction Workers

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**Mentor's College:** College of Health and Human Sciences

**Co-Presenters:**

#### Abstract

##### Purpose/Background:

Small-scale Latin American residential construction workers have among the highest rates of injury/fatality. Looking at transcripts of conversations with construction workers, and contractors we find that some causes behind these injuries is because of working fast. The study aims to look at why small-scale Latin American residential construction workers work fast and how they are attributed to increased injury and fatality.

##### Methods:

In the Ponte Listo project, qualitative semi-structured interviews were undertaken with n=5 Latino contractors and n=4 Latino construction workers. Interviews were recorded and transcribed. Interviews were coded independently with a set of UROP students as primary and secondary coders which were then discussed to find discrepancies.

##### Results:

Both contractors and workers had similar explanations as to why construction workers worked "fast". Many alluded to other outside "pressure" such as having to work "fast" in order to make more money to take care of their families and "send money back home".

##### Discussion:

Small-scale residential construction companies usually have contractors that hire workers and the amount of money that they receive is based on how much they get done during the day. Unlike large companies that pay their employee by the hour. Since small-scale residential construction workers are paid by the amount of square footage completed. They have little incentive to take time to put on safety equipment or spend time going to seminars, which takes away the time from finishing a job

#### BIO

I am an FSU student who is on the Pre-Physician's Assistant track, and my research interests are in

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limiting social injustices that affect underprivileged communities along with diseases that affect said communities.

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**Keywords:** Latino, construction, fatality, fast



# Investigating the Relationship Between Working Fast and the Risk of Injury in Latin American Construction Workers



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## Introduction

- Small-scale Latin American residential construction workers have among the highest rates of injury/ fatality.
- Looking at transcripts of conversations with construction workers, and contractors we find that some causes behind these injuries is because of working fast.
- The study aims to look at why small-scale Latin American residential construction workers work fast and how they are attributed to increased injury and fatality.

## Methods

- In the Ponte Listo project, qualitative semi-structured interviews were undertaken with n=5 Latino contractors and n=4 Latino construction workers. Interviews were recorded, and transcribed.
- Transcripts were coded independently by two UROP students (SJB & SE) as primary and secondary coders which were then discussed upon to find discrepancies and find themes.



## Results



The word cloud above identifies key phrases that have been repeated across several transcripts



## Discussion

- Small-scale residential construction companies usually have contractors that hire workers and the amount of money that they receive is based on how much they get done during the day.
- Unlike large companies that pay their employees by the hour, small-scale residential construction workers are paid by the amount of square footage completed.
- Small-scale residential construction workers have little incentive to take time to put on safety equipment or spending time going to seminars, takes away the time from finishing a job.

## References

- Shannon Montgomery, Antonio Marin, Elsa Nunez Reyes, Thomas Mills, Michael Merten, Hector Nolasco, Joseph Grzywacz
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and American Society for Safety Engineers (2015) 'Overlapping vulnerabilities: the occupational health and safety of young immigrant workers in small construction firms.', (NIOSH) 2015-178, pp. 1-39
- Sterud, T. et al. (2018) 'A systematic review of working conditions and occupational health among immigrants in Europe and Canada', BMC public health. BioMed Central, 18(1), p. 770. doi: 10.1186/s12889-018-5703-3.



# First undergraduate research symposium held in person since 2019

Sara Filips Staff Writer



The Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) is an annual event that highlights the diversity and innovation of student researchers at Florida State University. This past Friday, the event was held in-person for the first time since 2019.

On Apr. 7, The FSU Division of Undergraduate Studies and the Center for Undergraduate Research and Academic Engagement (CRE) allowed students to showcase their undergraduate research. Hundreds of student researchers across all majors were able to present their findings at this event. This year's event represents the 22nd year of the Undergraduate Research Symposium. Students were able to present their posters to their peers at the Honors, Scholars, and Fellows House from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.