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QuickTakes!

Research from WPU Professor Reveals Blatant Health Violation at Majority of NYC Nail Salons

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Nearly three-quarters of nail salon workers observed during a recent field research study were not wearing protective gloves, despite a New York State law mandating nail salon owners to provide them to their workers. The study, led by William Paterson University Public Health Professor Dr. Corey Basch, EdD and published in the *Journal of Preventive Medicine & Public Health*, is the first study to document use of protective gloves by nail salon workers in Manhattan.

The study is based on observations at 169 nail salons in Manhattan. Researchers visited each nail salon from October to December of 2015, posing as a potential customer. Salons were visited at varied times of day and visits took place Monday through Saturday. The researchers documented employees who were working with customers and conducting manicures and/or pedicures. Of the 562 nail salon workers observed, 415, or 73.8 percent, were not wearing gloves.

“Because there are potential occupational health risks posed to nail salon workers, this issue warrants further attention,” said Dr. Basch. Additional research is needed in many areas. The study should be expanded to include other locations throughout the city. An additional study should explore how well nail salon workers understand the health risk involved in their work, their motivation to use or not use protective gloves, their access to protective gloves, as well as other factors that may influence protective glove use by salon workers.

Dr. Basch’s study, “Use of Protected Gloves in Nail Salons in Manhattan, New York City,” was released this week in the *Journal of Preventive Medicine & Public Health* and can be found at: <http://jpmph.org/journal/view.php?number=1881>.

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