



A FIVE YEAR STUDY OF THE BLACK BEAUTY INDUSTRY

Natural evolutions one hair story



A compilation of results, cultural insights, health, and research around Black women's hair and health.



Black Women for Wellness



**BLACK WOMEN
FOR WELLNESS**

P.O. Box 292516

Los Angeles, CA 90029

(323) 290-5955

Natural
evolutions
one hair story

Black Women
for Wellness

© 2016

Black Women for Wellness would like to acknowledge all the hard work, input, guidance, support and direction from various people and organizations who helped with this project including:

Authors

Nourbese N Flint MA & Teniope Adewumi MS

Editors

Meridith Merchant PhD and Janette Robinson Flint PhD

Black Women for Wellness staff & volunteers

Amberia Allen PhD (former environmental justice intern)

Ellesse Akre MA

Gregory Johnson – Office Assistant

Janette Robinson Flint PhD – Executive Director

Julie Grigsby PhD – (former staff Sisters in Control Reproductive Justice)

Rhonda Kuykendall Jabari – Sisters in Motion Program Coordinator

Sophia Blake – Outreach Volunteer/ Surveys

Willie Duncan – Senior Program Manager

Allies & Organizations

Lola Smallwood Cuevas– Executive Director, Black Workers Center

Ogonnaya Newman - WE ACT - Voices of Harlem

Martha Dina Arguello – Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles

Ana Mascarenas – Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles (former staff)

Lisa Fu – California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative

Kathryn Alcantar & Christina Medina - Californians for a Healthy and Green Economy

Gaspar Rivera-Salgado PhD – Downtown Labor Center (UCLA)

Kevin Riley - Labor Occupational Safety & Health (LOSH) Program (UCLA)

UCLA Occupational Health Internship Program (OHIP) (UCLA)

OHIP Interns - Asha Bell, Tyler Brewington, Esmeralda Ponce MS

Jamie McConnell & Erin Switalski - Women's Voices of the Earth

Consultants

Pauline Brooks & Ruth Forman

Funds supporting the work and development of this report are appreciated especially from:

Center for Environmental Health –Michael Green & Ansje Miller

Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation – Wilma Montanez

The California Wellness Foundation – Earl Lui

The Grove Foundation – Karen Grove

The Regeneration Fund – Zak Sinclair

Graphic Design: Pam Ward

A special thanks to Earl Lui and the California Wellness Foundation for making this report possible.





our mission

Black Women for Wellness (BWW) is committed to healing, educating, and supporting Black women and girls. In 1997, BWW started as “Sisterfriends,” with the Birthing Project in Los Angeles. We began as a group of six women concerned about the health and well-being of our babies. As grandmothers, mothers, aunts, daughters, and sisterfriends, we found we had no choice but to take on the plethora of health issues Black women encounter. Black Women for Wellness is a grassroots non-profit committed to the empowerment, health and well-being of Black women and girls.

Black Women for Wellness utilizes a reproductive justice framework to engage in policy, advocacy, outreach, research, civic engagement and education toward increasing the health and well-being of Black women and girls locally in Los Angeles and throughout California. Organized by 6 women in 1997, Black Women for Wellness has worked for more than seventeen years to: (1) expand access to reproductive and sexual health through supporting state and county policy implementation and regulations, (2) provide sex education and outreach to youth, and (3) share information with consumers on reproductive and neurological toxins. In addition, BWW has worked on implementing healthy eating and exercise programs to prevent obesity and infertility, conducting research with African American beauty professionals to determine chemical exposure and correlating health status, and employing advocacy and outreach to ensure the Affordable Care Act is inclusive of reproductive health services. BWW also works on organizing and mobilizing around local and statewide elections, as well as publishing culturally relevant voter education and information materials for the Black community.

For more information, to volunteer, share information, ask questions, comment or otherwise communicate with Black Women for Wellness use the information below

www.bwwla.com • www.bwwla.org

Facebook • Twitter [bw4wla](#)

T 323 290 5955



table of contents

Introduction	8
Short Hair History	10
Areas of Concern	11
• Skin and Eye Irritations	12
• Respiratory Disorders	13
• Ergonomics	13
• Obesogens	14
• Cancer	14
• Reproductive Issues	15
Research & Data Collected From BWW Focus Groups 2009-2010	
Focus Groups	17
BWW 2014 Focus Group	22
2011 - 2013 Survey Results	24
2014 Survey Results	34
Moving Forward	41
Reference	43
Appendix A	46
Appendix B	53
Appendix C	56
BWW Programs	57





introduction

Each year, Black women spend about 9 billion dollars on beauty products alone, twice as much as any other ethnic group. By 2017, the Black hair care industry is estimated to reach \$500 billion, taking into the account the changing nature of the market and the increase in online sales. However, many of the products marketed to and used by Black women are rarely researched for toxic health consequences; in the rare cases that they are, Black hair products are found to be some of the most toxic beauty products on the market.

Black hair care professionals offer stability to our communities. Their history is interwoven with social justice movements, civil rights, and integration efforts of our experience in the United States as well as worldwide. The first Black female millionaires, Madame CJ Walker and Annie Turnbo Malone, made their fortune as pioneers in the beauty industry. Walker and Malone are just two examples of how African American beauticians and beauty professionals have contributed to the economic health of African Americans.

The Black hair and beauty industry is more than simply big business, it is multi-layered, complex and touches the lives of Black women and girls. It allows for self-expression, tracks family history, it is an economic base, it connects us to Black women across the globe, and has deep historical roots. However, little is known about the connection between the beauty products we use and the health of Black women, both as consumers and workers.

As the beauty industry booms, products marketed to and used by Black women are found to be toxic, containing chemicals that are carcinogenic, linked to hormone disorders, reproductive health challenges, and contributing to obesity rates. Black hair care professionals and consumers are experiencing the consequences of cumulative impacts of toxic chemical use from exposures in hair salons and unregulated, untested products.

Starting in 2009, Black Women for Wellness began collecting data, conducted literature reviews, hosted focus groups, interviewed key leaders, and researched the world of Black beauty. *Natural Evolutions - One Hair Story* is a compilation of the collected results and insights into the culture, health, and research around Black women's hair and health.

For the purposes of this report **natural hair** is defined as hair not chemically treated with relaxers, texturizers, or a "perm." Hair that is colored, but is styled in a natural way, is included under natural hairstyles. Examples of natural hairstyles include: braids, twists, sister locs, etc.

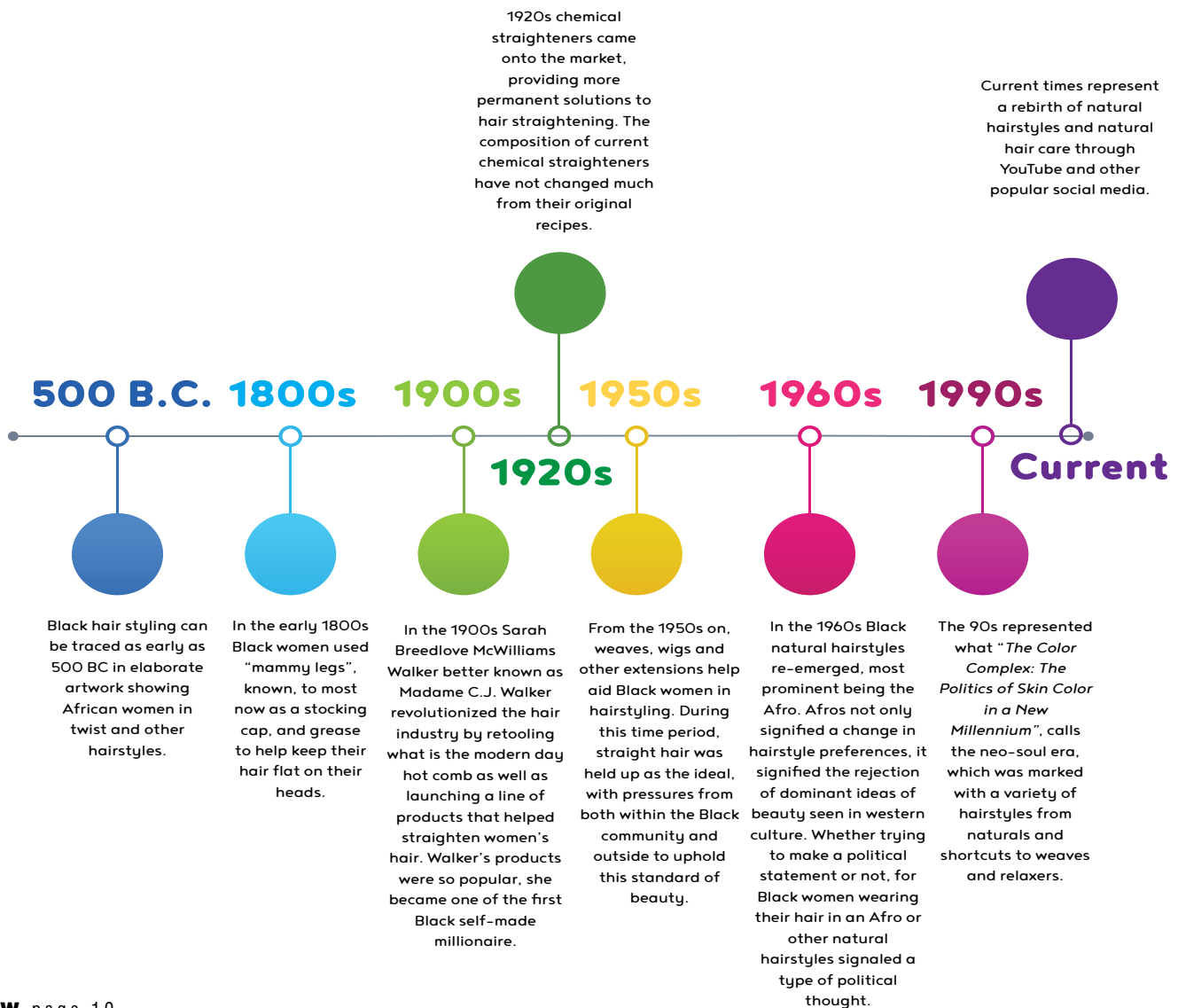
Black, for the purposes of this report, is defined as all people who self-identify within the African Diaspora, including but not limited to: Africans, African Americans, Black Americans, Black Caribbeans and Afro Latinos. Although African American and Black do not have interchangeable meanings, in this report we will use both terms since research that involves Black people in America rarely disaggregates information by ethnicity or nationality.



short history on black hair

The current culture around Black hair is multi-faceted and still infused with race, class and political influence. Traci Thoms, a Black actress illustrates this notion in her quote, “Very simply: It’s amazing that it’s considered revolutionary to wear my hair the way it grows out of my head.”

The history of Black hairstyling is important in understanding the significant cultural implications of Black women’s hair. Black hair culture is interconnected with the conversation around class, gender, race, colorism and colonialism. The research that BWW conducted around Black hair and health intersects with the deep history, and current attitudes of what Black hairstyles represent and cannot be looked at in a vacuum.



health status

Black women and girls have an overwhelming burden as a result of health disparities. Issues such as skin irritations to reproductive disorders experienced by Black women have direct links to the toxic chemicals we frequently come into contact with. In this report we highlight major health areas of concern for both Black hair care professionals and consumers.

AREAS OF CONCERN INCLUDE:

Skin and Eye Irritations

Respiratory Disorders

Ergonomics

Obesogens

Cancer

Reproductive Issues





SKIN & EYE IRRITATION

Occupational contact dermatitis* is a significant and growing health problem for hairdressers. The most frequent contributing factors to skin damage include shampoos, detergents, conditioners, hair dyes, bleaches, permanent wave solutions, and components of gloves. Prolonged exposure to irritants, exposure to potential allergens such as hair dyes, coupled with pre-existing sensitive skin can greatly increase skin irritation. In the UK it is estimated that 14-20% of cosmetology students drop out during their first two years due to contact dermatitis. Studies estimated that around 7 out of 10 hair stylists will likely suffer from a form of work related dermatitis in his or her career. In addition to contact and allergic dermatitis, stylists are also exposed to other skin disorders including chemical burns and bacterial infections.

Another area of concern and a significant health problem for hairdressers is eye irritation. Products such as nail polish, hair dye, glues, flat iron sprays and disinfectants can cause significant eye irritation. A study conducted of 50 Portuguese hairdressers found that 50% of the workers had hand dermatitis and 43% had eye irritation. The study found, as did similar studies, that there was improper use of personal protective equipment and a lack of effective prevention measures. Black Women for Wellness had similar findings in our research.*Contact dermatitis is a condition in which the skin becomes red, sore, or inflamed after direct contact with a substance.



Frequent sneezing, coughing, and chest tightness were found in hair stylists.

RESPIRATORY DISORDERS

Breathing and respiratory disorders are among the most prevalent health issues faced by hairstylists. Hair care professionals work with many chemicals that are known to adversely affect the respiratory system. Chemicals such as formaldehyde, ammonia, and bleaching agents have been known to lead to breathing difficulties such as coughing and wheezing, heightened sensitivity, and in some cases occupational asthma. Studies have also shown that stylists assume a greater risk than the general public in developing respiratory problems and allergies.

A study conducted in 2007 with 344 women in Nigeria found that respiratory symptoms were more common among hairdressers as compared to the community at large. Frequent sneezing, coughing, and chest tightness were found in the hair stylists. In addition, the mean pulmonary function test (FEV1, FVC, and FEV1/FVC) was lower in hairdressers, with no relation to duration of employment in the industry. In short, a beauty professional's ability to breathe deeply is compromised once entering the profession.

Respiratory problems such as asthma are a growing problem in the Black community. More than 3 million African Americans are currently living with asthma. It is estimated that African Americans are almost three times more likely to die from asthma related causes than White Americans. Increased risks from traditional asthma factors such as air pollution and occupational exposures leave Black hair dressers at a greater risk of harm.

ERGONOMICS

Hair care professionals are exposed to ergonomic risks, most specifically, work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSD). Problems such as poor posture, prolonged standing, extended hours, and working through breaks, which are common habits of hair care professionals, lead to increased MSD risks. Specific MSDs include lower back problems from standing for long periods, shoulder problems from holding arms above shoulder level for extended periods of time, neck problems from constant head turning, and wrist problems from forceful repetitive movements.

Black stylists may spend more than eight hours on a single customer, especially if styling individual braids, twists or locs. The majority of this time is spent standing or working nonstop. Ergonomic challenges significantly impact the health of hairdressers and the ability of stylists to work over time. MSDs are a major illness burden in the United States contributing to unnecessary pain and suffering, stress and, ultimately, loss of income.

***Musculoskeletal disorders** (MSDs) are injuries or disorders of the muscles, nerves, tendons, joints, cartilage, and supporting structures of the upper and lower limbs, neck, and lower back that are caused, precipitated or exacerbated by sudden exertion or prolonged exposure to physical factors such as repetition, force, vibration, or awkward posture. This definition specifically excludes those conditions such as fractures, contusions, abrasions, and lacerations resulting from sudden physical contact of the body with external objects.



Black women often use cosmetic products more toxic than the general population.

OBESOGENS

Obesogens, discovered in 2006, are a class of chemicals that disrupt the normal flow of the metabolism. A study published in The National Center for Biotechnology Information Journal found that these chemicals “altered the human metabolism, predispose some people to weight gain and, in some instances, fetal and early-life exposures alter individuals’ metabolism and fat-cell makeup for life.” Obesogens are found in everything from “high tech foods” to many of the chemicals utilized in shampoos, conditioners, and fragrances.

A recent review of the role of environmental chemicals, such as phthalates which are obesogens, concluded that “chemical exposures may increase the risk of obesity by altering the differentiation of adipocytes or the development of neural circuits that regulate feeding behavior,” and “the review of the existing literature identified linkages between several of the environmental exposures and type 2 diabetes.” As a whole, African Americans are twice as likely to be diagnosed with diabetes as non-Hispanic whites. In 2013, the CDC National Diabetes Surveillance System found that after adjusting for age, the prevalence of diagnosed diabetes in Black women was 9.0 per 100 population, while the prevalence for white women was 5.4 per 100 population.

Phthalates are found in many different hair and beauty products including hair conditioners, shampoos, detanglers and hair lotions.

CANCER

According to an Environmental Working Group report, 1 out of every 100 products on the market contains ingredients certified by governmental authorities as known human carcinogens. This includes items such as shampoos, lotions, lipsticks, lip balms and make-up foundations. Almost one-third of all products on the market contain one or more ingredients classified as possible human carcinogens.

Cancer causing chemicals in hair and beauty products are of special concern within the Black community. Black Women for Wellness found that women of color, particularly Black women, often use cosmetic products that are found to be more toxic, when tested, than the general population. Chemicals found in hair relaxers, hair dyes, and straightening products, such as Brazilian blowouts, have links to carcinogenic materials.

The Journal of the National Cancer Institute, in 1994, reported that deep-colored dyes, when used over a prolonged period of time, seemed to increase the risk of both non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma and multiple myeloma. Similarly, the International Journal of Cancer found that those who use permanent hair dyes are 2.1 times more likely to develop bladder cancer. Prolonged use by hairdressers using these types of chemicals on clients also increases risk. A report by the International Agency for Research on Cancer noted that the chemical exposure to hairdressers and barbers are probably carcinogenic.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Black women. In 2010, breast cancer was the leading cause of cancer death for Black women aged 45-64. Breast cancer diagnoses for Black women is 121.1 per 100,000 per year, which is less than white women's incident rate of 127.4 per 100,000 per year. However, even though Black women have a lower incident rate of breast cancer than White women, Black women are far more likely to die from breast cancer, often having more aggressive cancers or being diagnosed in later stages. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Vital Statistics report, breast cancer death rate for women aged 45-64 years of age was 60% higher for Black women than White women (56.8 and 35.6 deaths per 100,000, respectively).

REPRODUCTIVE ISSUES

There is a wide array of problems that impact the reproductive health of Black women such as socio-economic status, access to health services and other issues of concern. In this report we are centering on the impact of toxic chemicals, specifically endocrine disruptors, on the reproductive health of women and girls.

Infant development/mortality

There is still more testing needed when it comes to birth outcomes and the use of hair care products. However, this is a serious area of concern given the disparities that exist for Black infant mortality. Even though the national rates of infant mortality have been decreasing, Black women still have rates of infant death 2.2 times higher than White women (11.46 to 5.18 respectively). Black infants are also four times more likely to die as a result of low birth weight compared to non-Hispanic White infants.

Given what we have found regarding the links between miscarriage, low birth weight, and chemicals found in products used by hairdressers, there is reason to be concerned that chemicals are one of many issues that impact infant mortality.

Miscarriages

A North Carolina survey of cosmetologists revealed a greater number of spontaneous abortions (miscarriage) among cosmetologists when compared to non-cosmetologists. The survey also noted that those women who had been in cosmetology school during pregnancy had twice the risk of miscarriage. This risk increased in salons that used formaldehyde and alcohol-based disinfectants.

A cross-sectional study done with 12,054 women in Norway found that female hairdressers in the sample were at an increased risk for infertility and spontaneous abortion compared with women in other professions. Other studies have shown hairdressers had higher rates of giving birth to infants that were small for their age, had major malformations and suffered from early infant death when compared with non-hair professionals. Hairdressers that worked more than 30 hours a week during pregnancy were 1.8 times more likely to have a low birth weight infant when compared to hairdressers that worked less than 30 hours a week. This study is especially important given that Norway has a homogenous populations with national healthcare, giving them the ability to better identify beauty stylist exposure to chemicals and the health issues connected.



Women who had been in cosmetology school during pregnancy had twice the risk of miscarriage.



Hair relaxers are linked to uterine fibroids in Black women and girls

Uterine Fibroids

A recent study published in the American Journal of Epidemiology determined that the use of hair relaxers is linked to uterine fibroids in Black women and girls, something that is estimated to affect 80% of Black women over their lifetime. The study, which interviewed more than 23,000 premenopausal African American women from 1997 to 2009, found two-to-three times higher rates of fibroids among Black women.

Chemical exposure through scalp lesions and burns caused by relaxers are linked with high fibroid tumor rates. The main ingredients found in relaxers, lye (sodium hydroxide) and no-lye (calcium hydroxide) formulae are linked to scalp lesions and burns. Women who use lye relaxers have a higher risk of scalp lesions or burns, which increases dermal absorption of chemicals directly into their bodies.

Reproductive Development

Girls who reported using chemical hair oils and hair perms were 1.4 times more likely to experience early puberty after adjusting for race, ethnicity, and year of birth. In addition, other studies have linked early puberty to hair detangler use by Black girls. In one of the studies African American girls as young as two years old started showing signs of puberty after using products containing animal placenta found in many detanglers and conditioners.

This information along with the proliferation of chemicals in our hair and beauty products, and the possible impacts of untested, unregulated chemicals on Black women's reproductive health, is alarming.



research and data collection

2009-2013

Research & Data Collected From BWW Focus Groups

2009-2010 Focus Groups

BWW sought insights and opinions held by our community regarding the chemical ingredients of hair and beauty products marketed to the Black community. From September 2009 through February 2010, BWW hosted seven focus groups and conducted five one-on-one interviews with Black opinion leaders and community activists within the Los Angeles area who are consumers of hair care products.

The Consumers

Parents

Focus group participants were mostly African American parents and grandparents. In addition, this group included one male participant and one White female participant that was the mother of a biracial child. The ages of the participants ranged from 16 to 60.

Black Women ages 40+

Focus group participants were women aged 40 years and older. All of the participants were African American women.

Black Women consumers

Women participating in these focus groups had diverse income levels, socioeconomic status, and education (though all had, at minimum, high school diplomas) and came from various parts of Los Angeles.

Focus Group Recap

What is the main influence in choosing the products that you do?

For many of the women, the main reason for choosing products included: advertised hair growth, worked for their friends, friends with “good hair” used it, had lower cost (on sale), had a pleasant smell, and it was easily accessible. Another factor that was important was familial use, with several participants mentioning their mother as a reason why they used a certain hair care product.

Are you willing to drive to get new products?

For many participants, rising gas prices deterred them from driving long distances for new products. However, some participants indicated that they might consider it, if they had more information about the product, or for a specific product. One participant said she had asked to get healthier products in her local stores, in particular getting the local Wal-Mart to carry Seventh Generation, her efforts were unsuccessful.

Cost Benefit?

Participants debated the cost benefit analysis of switching to a healthier alternative. This theme came up in many of the focus groups in various ways including: the price of the product, how far they would have to drive to obtain healthier products, and their current responsibilities. However, the focus group that had only women over 40 was the group most likely to spend extra money for a healthier product. One participant said, “You can’t put a price on your health. Your health is priceless.” Another participant added that she was willing to pay more, but that price did make a difference in her choice to purchase.



One participant wanted her local Wal-Mart to carry Seventh Generation, her efforts were unsuccessful.

Hair Care Professionals

Black Women for Wellness conducted a focus group with stylists who worked primarily in the South Los Angeles area.

Were the products the stylists used on the cosmetics hazard database website?

The stylists' group visited the cosmetics database to see if they could look up the products they utilized the most. The most commonly used relaxers did not have any information in the database. The cosmetics database rates products on a scale of 1 – 10, the lower the score the safer or less toxic the product. A few of the stylists found chemical reports for the hair colors they used. Two of the hair colors had a high concern rating, which did not surprise the stylists. However, the group was interested in the lower score relaxers. Although, it had a lower score, the stylists said they stopped using the product because, "It doesn't work ... when [companies] switch a product it stops working the way they used to work." One participant stated, "They're taking [the chemical] out for a good reason, but then our clients are like, wait a minute, something's not right."

The stylists mentioned that it seemed like the website did not list the professional brands. The stylists wished there was a space to look up professional use products. One of the participants said that she would look at the website and request some of these products on her own.

What are reasons stylists use particular products?

Moisture was a common reason to use a product, both for their clients and themselves. It was reported that many clients have dry scalp; they are seeing psoriasis a lot more and clients come in with medicated shampoos. Stylists look for hair care and personal products that don't irritate their skin or their natural hair. One stylist shared, "We are looking for something that keeps you healthy, for use with our clients and for ourselves."

Potential chemical harm?

When asked if they've ever wondered if there are chemicals in the products that they use that may potentially harm their general health or reproductive health, or the health of their clients, the stylist answered yes to all questions. One stylist said, "What's in all of these products that's bringing on these ailments such as scalp conditions?"

Priority concerns for stylists included respiratory issues, latex gloves, chemicals in hair color, relaxers, hair sprays/holding sprays, heat/smoke from curling irons combined with oil, and glue for weaves.

Client reactions to glue include headaches or scalp reaction such as a raised red lump on scalp where glue was when removing hair, and bald spots. One stylist said for these reasons "she only uses glue to do a closure."*

*more information in quantitative section about this topic.





A participant mentioned using gloves because she had sensitive hands.



Protecting their own health?

When asked if they do anything special to protect their own health or their client's health from environmental toxins at work, most answered that they use different types of ventilation. One stylist said, "[The] place can't be closed in and cluttered, though some shops are." One of the participants used a website called "Killer Strands" (started by a chemist who is a hair stylist as well) which offers information on healthier hair care options. Another participant mentioned using gloves because she had sensitive hands.

Willingness to use safer products?

Stylists answered that they would absolutely be willing to use safer work-related products if they could be shown to be safe and effective for them and their clients. The stylists indicated that they are actively looking for alternatives with very little success.

Willingness to spend more?

The stylists answered that they would be willing to spend more for a safer alternative. They stated that there is a cost difference and they are already paying more for the safer alternatives. Some conditions under which they would switch products include: if it works for their clients, adding/keeping moisture on the hair and scalp and if they like the product themselves.

Post session: After the official ending of the focus group, BWW had an impromptu discussion with some of the stylists. We noted that many of the stylists were concerned about their personal care products, hair care products and food products and had many questions about safety after the focus group.

opinion leaders

Black Women for Wellness thought it was important to speak to some of the leaders and opinion makers in the South Los Angeles community. Their voices have a substantial influence on health priority work in the community and they are able to share information about health issues or concerns in the community with more authority and leverage. BWW conducted one-on-one interviews with four leaders either by phone, in person, or through an electronic questionnaire.

Major themes

When asked about the top issues concerning Black women's general health, the top factors that came up were: lifestyle, diet, workload, stress, racism, substance abuse (drugs/alcohol), and culturally and linguistically correct access to health care. "Relationships" was named as a factor highly influencing reproductive health and "gynecological surgeries and medical interventions" were indicated as highly affecting post-reproductive health. Environmental health concerns, particularly toxins, did not come up until prompted.

The leaders indicated that high priority environmental health concerns are: house cleaning products, carcinogenic agents in food products, hair care products, and personal care products.

When asked specifically about environmental health concerns for women who no longer considered having children, high concerns included: air quality, toxins in foods, genetically altered foods, and bottled water quality.

When asked about toxins as they relate to reproductive health, issues of high concern included: house cleaning products, food products, hair care products, personal care products, and baby products.

We asked leaders, how the populations they served could best be educated about environmental toxins and women's reproductive health.

Answers included:

- Educational seminars
- Engaging directly with beauty shops
- Word of mouth
- Share personal stories of people directly impacted by environmental toxins



LIFESTYLE

DIET

STRESS

RACISM

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

HEALTH CARE



hair care professional narratives

2014 Focus Groups

In 2014, BWW conducted two more focus groups with hair care professionals and consumers about the safety of hair care products. These focus groups amassed a wealth of information similar to that of previous focus groups; however, the richest learning were the narratives that the women shared. Because we used different survey questions in the 2014 focus groups, we have separated this data out from the focus groups conducted in prior years.



The main themes from the hair care professional focus group were health issues, personal protective use, and the idea of good hair. Below are the selected narratives from the focus group:

“All hair is good, there is no bad hair. Good hair is growing hair. Good hair is when it don't hurt.”

“I wear gloves if it's something that I think may affect my health I put on gloves. We use masks for the chemicals... the chemicals were so strong they give you a headache.”

“I know women that did full service back in the 70s they had respiratory problems, TB, and breast cancer from pressing hair and breathing it in, they didn't know back then... so I try to stay away from the chemicals.”

“I know from dying my hair over the years, I've had every color of the rainbow and I know exactly when they took that chemical out that was giving people brain tumors and cancer and that is why your dyes don't last now, if you dye your hair you notice the gray pops out in two weeks' time, it used to be 6-8 weeks, but they had [to] by law take the chemical out and so that is why the dyes don't last as long.”

“My friend [has] 20 years in the industry, my friends doesn't have fingerprints anymore... my friends can't go to the DMV and put their hand down and [get] fingerprints anymore”

Consumer Narratives

The main themes from the consumer focus group were: access to safer products, labeling, and the right to know what is in consumer hair products. The following are selected narratives from the focus group:

Labeling on Products

“I used to trust it ... till I found out that they were paying off to get a stamp to be able to do it ... you have to understand what their definition of it is [natural], not our perceived conception of it.”

“Natural doesn't mean that it's organic or that's its good for you. They could put all these different words that seem so great but a lot of people don't actually understand what they are.”

“It's trendy to buy all natural and organic. But depending on where you live, people fight more to know what's in their products.”



“

The power of knowledge is taken away when we don't know what is in the products.”

Right to Know

“The power of knowledge is taken away when we don't know and are not told what is in our products.”

“Healthier products cost a lot more, it feels like we are being punished for wanting healthier options.”

“My mother would make her own products and solutions, with simple things like vinegar and water.”

“They knew all these years that this stuff would [of] killed you.”

Survey Collection and Analysis

Survey

South Los Angeles is one of the most diverse sectors of Los Angeles County. Home to more than one million residents (1,009,550), it has the largest population of African Americans in Los Angeles. South LA is also home to Black Women for Wellness (BWW), as our office is located in the historic Leimert Park area. As a follow up to our focus groups, BWW conducted survey interviews with hair professionals between 2011 and 2014. The following are the results of our survey.

Methodology:

BWW targeted the Leimert Park area for our research. We collected 40 completed surveys from June 2011 to August of 2013 from Black hair care professionals. Hair professionals varied in age, gender, and years in the business. We explored three main issue areas:

1. How many Black stylists actively treat hair with hormonally active and toxic chemical products?
2. Do stylists use safety precautions when using hormonally active and toxic chemicals?
3. Of the stylists who treat hair with hormonally active or toxic chemicals, is there reason to believe that this exposure impacts their own health?

Stylist Demographics

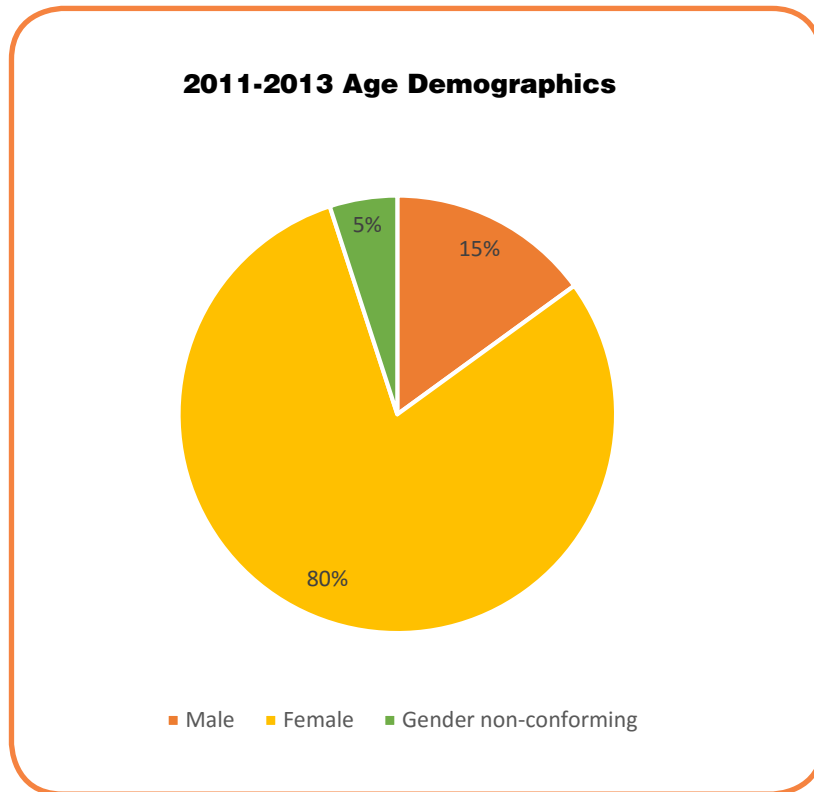


Figure 1: Pie chart 2011-2013 Age Demographics.

Gender

80% Female 15% Male 5% Gender Non-Conforming/Trans

Ages

45% of the stylists interviewed were 30-44 years old

38% were older than 44 years old

7% were 18-24 years old

2% were 25-29 years old

The majority of the hair stylists interviewed were over the age of 30; well over half of the people BWW surveyed were in their reproductive years (15-44).

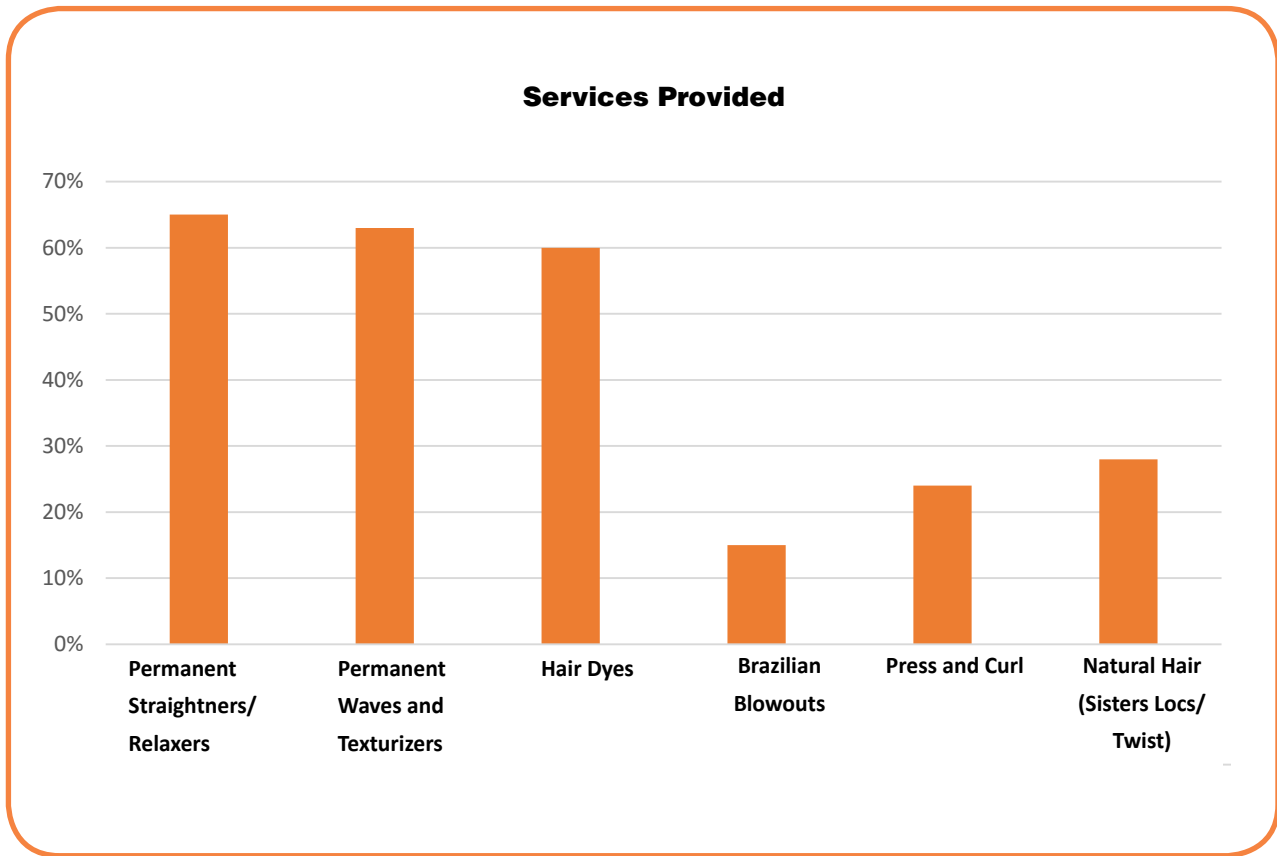


Figure 2: Bar graph of services provided.

Figure 2 represents the most common services provided. The values represent the percentage of stylists that reported providing each type of style.

65% Used permanent straighteners or lye/no-lye relaxers

63% Used permanent waves & texturizers

60% Used hair dye

15% Used Brazilian blowouts

24% Used heat for a press and curl

28% Styled natural hair (as defined on page 5)

Almost **two thirds of stylists** provided services with heavy chemicals.

Top Products Used and Safety Rating

The top five most used hair products were: Shea butter, Nexxus Products, Sebastian Products, Proclaim Products, and Motions Relaxers (not in any particular order).

61 Nexxus products are listed with a safety rating* of 4-9 (moderate to high hazard)

17 Sebastian products are listed with a safety rating of 4-9 (moderate to high hazard)

18 Motions products are listed with a safety rating of 1-7 (low to moderate hazard)

There was no information about the Proclaim brand.

*Safety rating from Environmental Working Group's Skin Deep Database

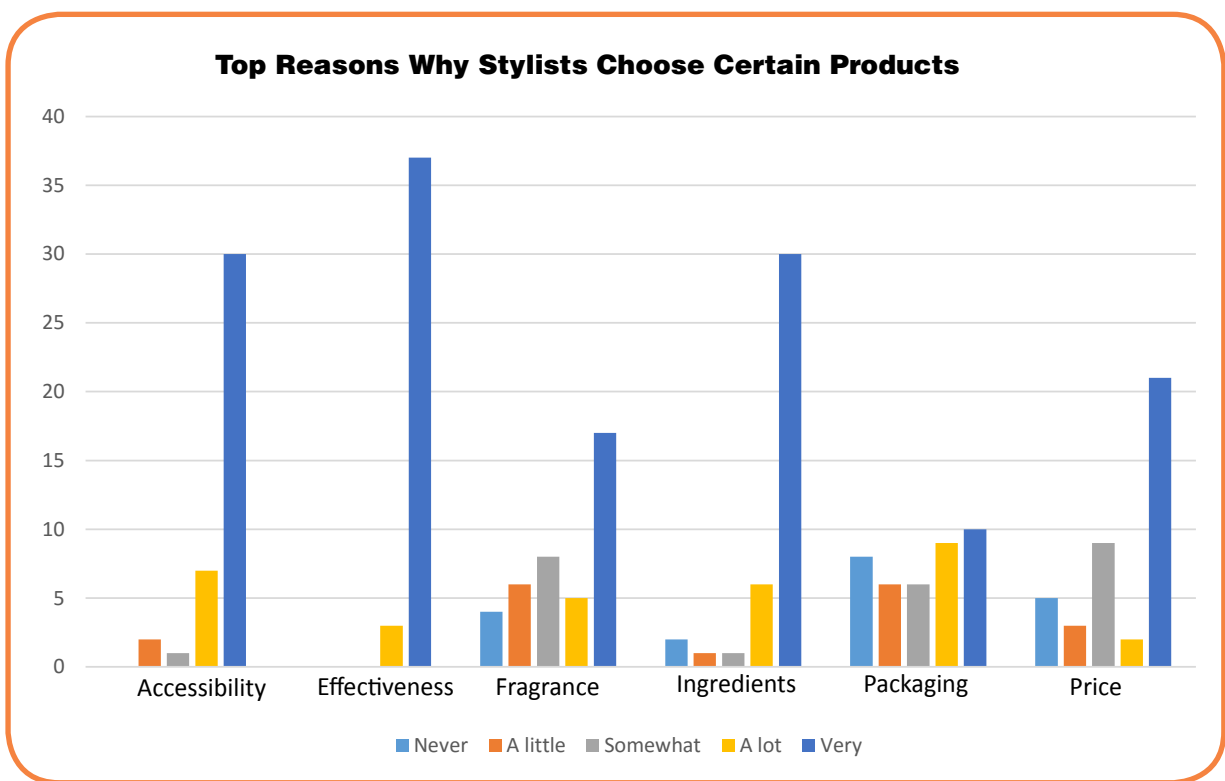


Figure 3: Bar graph shows what stylists top reasons when purchasing a product

All stylists said that effectiveness was either “very important” or “important” when it comes to choosing a product. Accessibility and ingredients came up high on the priority list. However, given that accessibility is the second greatest determinant when purchasing products, many of the products stylists use are dictated by the availability of that product in local beauty supply stores.

Although the price of the product was important to many of the stylist, it was not a high determining factor when choosing a product. Using this information, we can conclude that if healthier alternatives were locally sold, and were effective, stylists would pay the extra cost to use the product.

Fragrance and packaging was of least importance to stylists' choice.

Product Toxicity and Precautions:

An overwhelming number of stylists believed that most of the products they used were non-toxic (55%). Some had reservations about relaxers, and their toxicity but believed that most other products such as shampoos and conditioners were safe. This information is especially important when examining protection procedures.

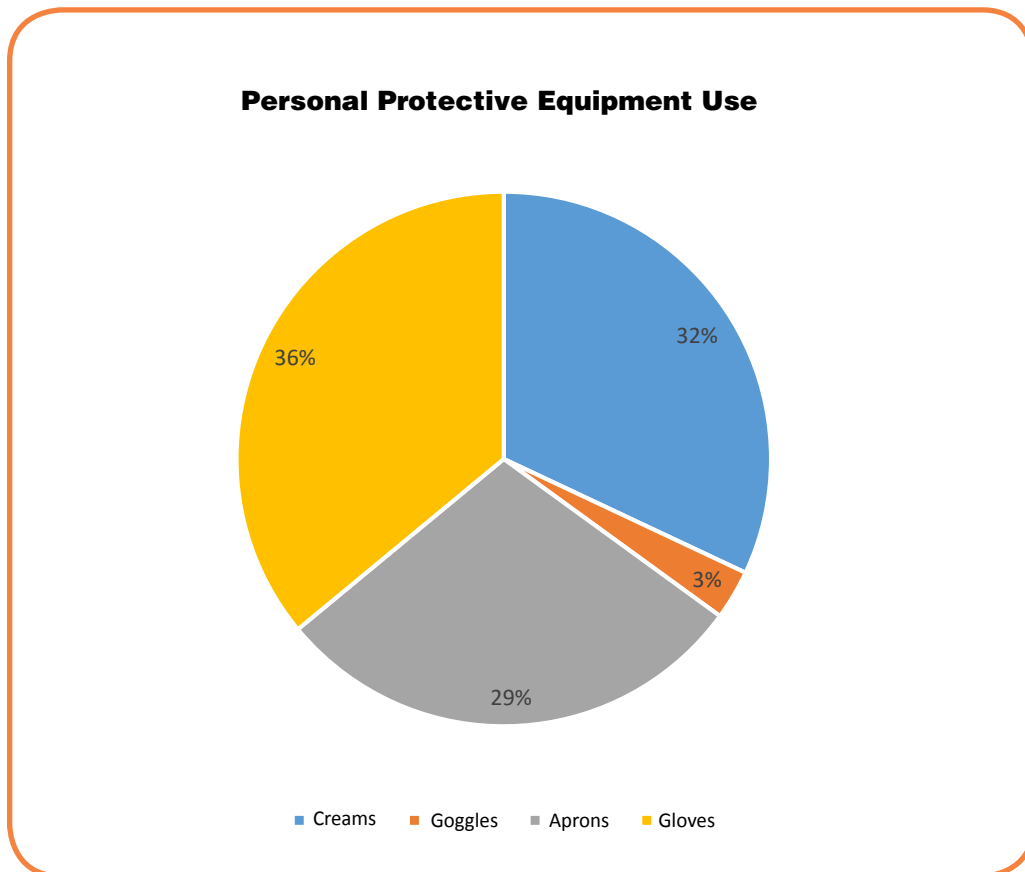


Figure 4: Pie Chart of personal protective equipment use.

Of the stylists that used some form of protective gear, figure 4 depicts methods of protection that stylists used when treating hair. Gloves, aprons, and creams were most common, averaging 30% for each category. A mere 3% used goggles to protect their vision.

Eye irritation was reported by many of the stylists we talked to and given that 90% did not use any form of eye protection, this raises questions about education and accessibility around using protective gear to minimize health hazards.

Workplace Exposure and Associated Health Risks:

Health risks, ergonomic injuries (injuries caused by repeated motions) were also reported in the workplace.

Workplace Exposures & Health Risks	
ERGONOMIC EXPOSURES	CHEMICAL EXPOSURES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spending long hours repetitive motion tasks• Pain in legs, wrists, hands, fingers, back and foot.• Loss of function of wrists, hands and fingers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working long hours around toxic chemicals• Nausea, dizziness, chronic dermatitis• low birth weight, miscarriage• Not wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)• Chemical burns, eye/skin/nose irritation, upper respiratory irritation

Figure 5: Chart detailing workplace exposures and associated health risks.

The most common forms of toxic chemicals that were found in the hair product stylist used are listed in the table that follows. A full list of chemicals is located in Appendix A.



Of the stylists we talked to, over 100 health issues were reported. The most common problems were headaches, dizziness, and chemical burns. About 9% of the women stylists surveyed had health issues directly related to reproductive health.

Most Common Forms of Toxic Chemicals in Products

Products	Chemical Ingredients	Health Effects
Hormone containing conditioner	Various endocrine disruptors	Premature puberty, risk of breast cancer
Hair dyes	NH4OH, H2O2 Phenylenediamine Resorcinol	Skin burns & scarring, eye irritation
Relaxers	NAOH and CaOH	Skin burns and irritation, eye damage, permanent hair loss

Figure 6: Most common forms of toxic chemicals found in products used.

Health Issues and Stylists

Of the stylists we talked to, over 100 health issues were reported. The most common health issues were headaches, dizziness, and chemical burns. About 9% of the women stylists surveyed had health issues directly related to reproductive health.

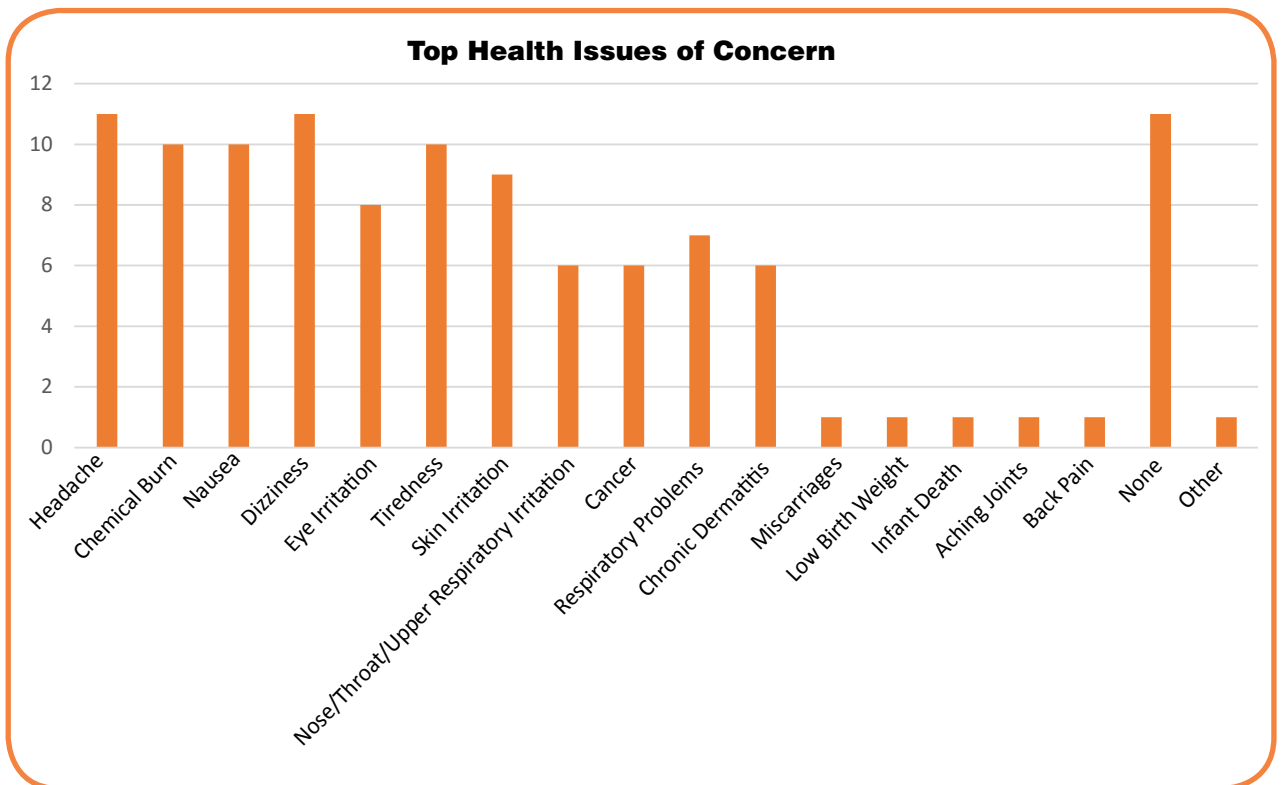


Figure 7: Bar graph showing top health issues of concern faced by hair stylists

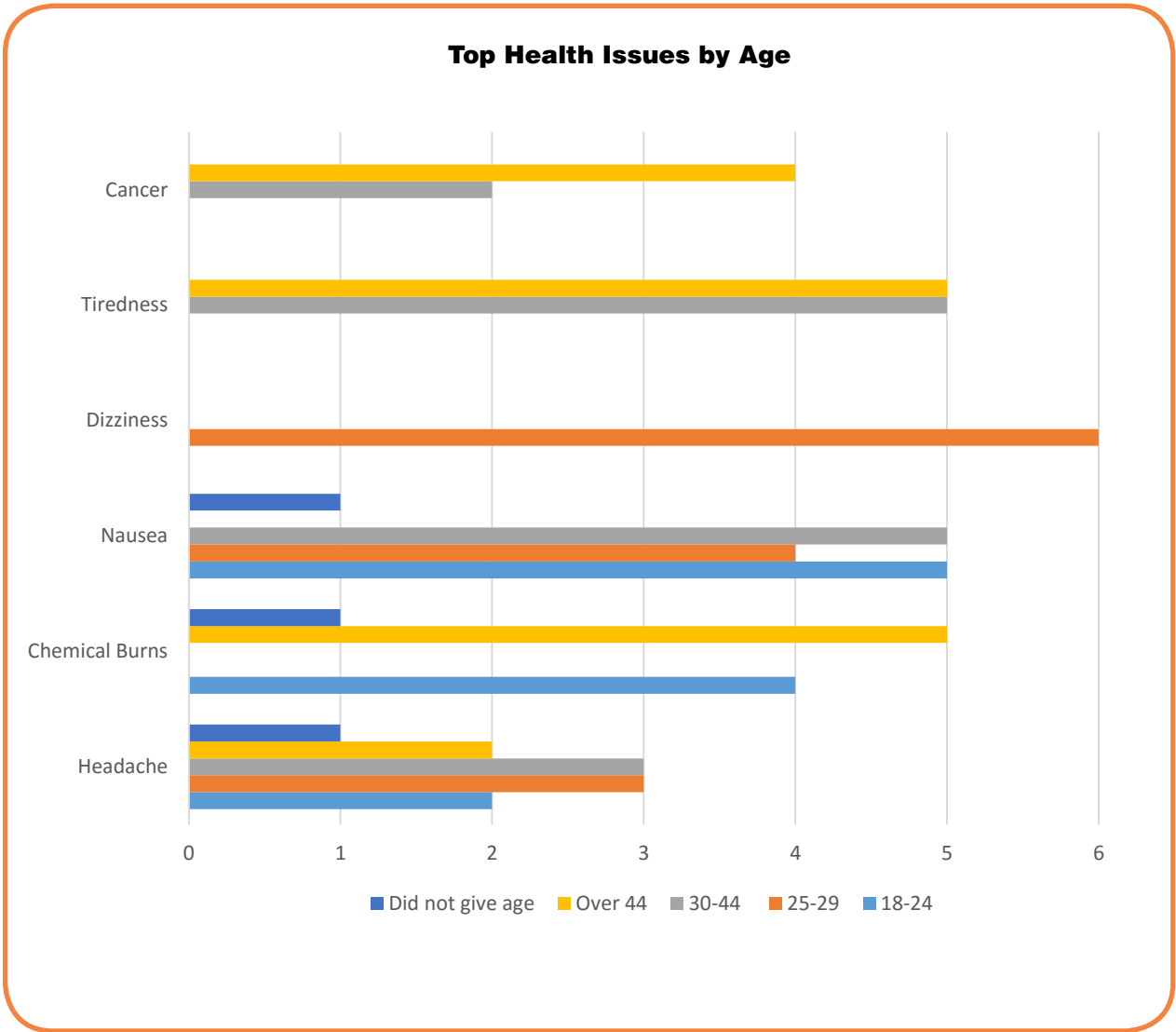


Figure 8: Bar graph top health issues by age

Figure 8 shows a cross section of age and prevalence of the top health issues reported by stylists.

Importance of Health

A majority of stylists (89%) felt that their health was “very important” or “important” to them. However, when it came to their clients’ health, 95% said that it was “very important” or “important to them.” While stylists care about their own health, the health of their clients was just as or more important to them.

Importance of Health Effects of Products on Stylists

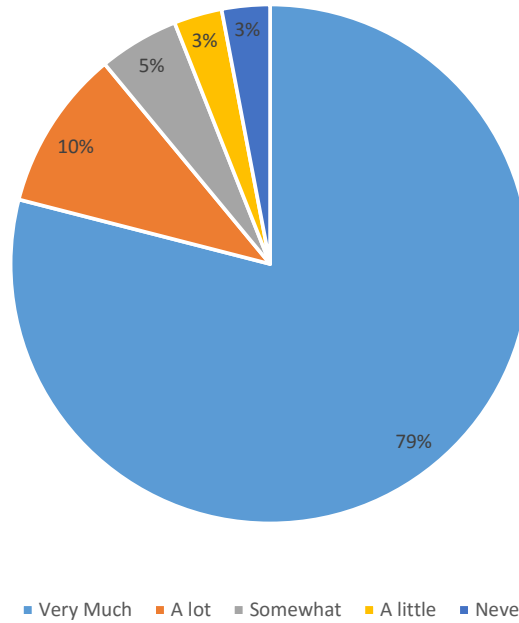


Figure 9: Importance of health effects of products on stylists.

Importance of Health Effects of Products on Clients

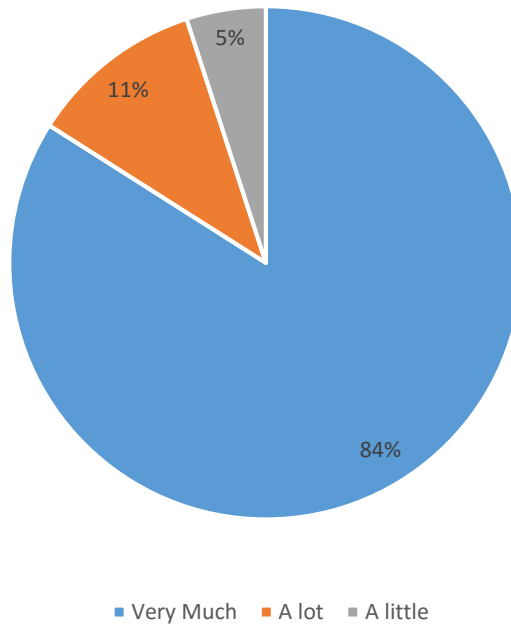


Figure 10: Importance of health effects of products on clients.

2014 surveys

In the summer of 2014, Black Women for Wellness (BWW) revised and updated the survey that was used in previous community based participatory assessments. The new survey included new questions that asked stylists to prioritize some answer choices to gain a more in-depth look at occupational exposures that hair care professionals face.

Methodology: BWW targeted the Los Angeles County communities of Leimert Park and Inglewood to administer the surveys. Over 60 salons were outreached to, and 22 surveys were collected during the two-month period from hair professionals. Hair professionals varied in age, gender, and years in the business. We looked at several issues including but not limited to:

- Services provided
- Products used and recommended
- Hazard prevention methods (personal protective equipment, ventilation, etc.)
- Adverse health effects (physical ailments, reproductive disorders, etc.)

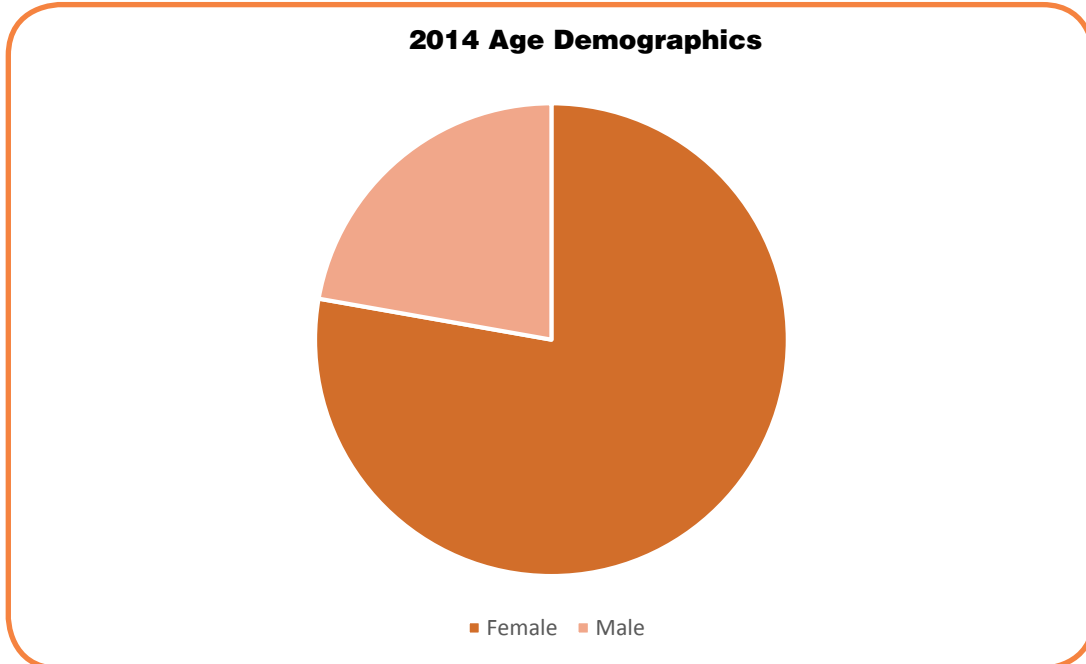


Figure 11: 2014 Age demographics

- Female (18) 82%, Male (4) 18%
- 45.5% of the stylists interviewed were between the ages of 30 and 44
- 45.5% of stylists were older than 45 years of age
- 9.1% were less than 29 years of age

The majority of the hair stylists interviewed were over the age of 30. All stylists predominantly worked with African American/Black clients. Stylist experience in the field ranged from 5 months to 34 years of service. 59.1% of stylists learned their trade from cosmetology school, 18.2% from family and friends, and 22.7% from other avenues. Over 60% of stylists interviewed worked 30 hours or more a week.

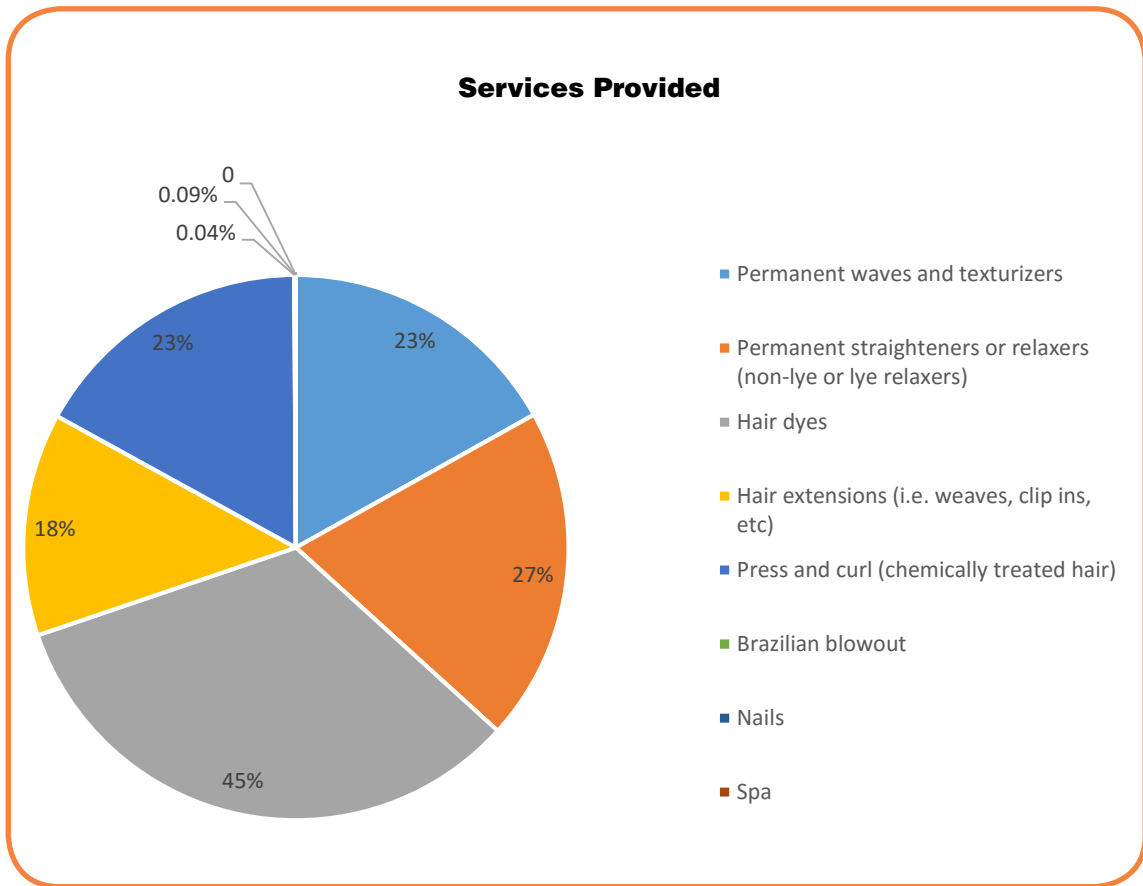


Figure 12: Circle graph of some of the services provided.

Services Provided

The values represent the number of stylists that reported providing each type of style.

- 45% Provided hair dyes
- 27% Provided permanent straighteners or relaxers (no-lye or lye relaxers)
- 18% Provided hair extensions (i.e. weaves, clip-ins, etc.)
- 22% Provided press and curls on chemically treated hair services
- 0.04% Provided Brazilian blowout services
- 0.09% Provided Nail services

Of the 22 stylists interviewed, 10 were primarily natural hair care professionals. Several stylists provided the following natural hair care services:

- 59% Provided twists
- 31% Provided press and curl services (not chemically treated hair)
- 23% Provided sister locs
- 13% Provided afros

“
Over half of the hair care professionals stated they created their own products.

Frequency of Services:

Permanent waves and texturizers were performed on average 1 to 3 times a week by the stylists who provided the services. Relaxers were done on average 2-4 times a week and hair dyes were used, on an average, 2-5 times a week by stylists who offered the services. The least frequent chemical hair service performed by stylists was Brazilian blowouts which only 1 stylist provided, on average, 1 to 3 times a week. Natural hair styles were performed more frequently with sister locs being the most frequent at 4 to 6 times a week on average by stylists who provided the service. Braids and locs were also performed frequently at 3-5 times a week by stylists offering the services.

Products Used:

When asked what products they used and recommended to clients, over half of the hair care professionals stated that they created their own products. Top store bought (commercial) products included the Motions product line, Jane Carter line, and Mango and Lime.

Reasons Why Stylists Choose Certain Products:

Forty-two percent (42%) of stylists surveyed indicated that product ingredients and how well a product worked was most important in making a decision about purchasing a product. The least important factor in purchasing a product was the product's packaging with 50% of the stylists stating it was not important. Fifteen percent (15%) of stylists said that price was the most important factor when purchasing products, while another 15% said it was the least important decision making factor.

Product Toxicity and Precautions:

57% of the stylists we interviewed indicated that they believed the products they used to be very safe, while 17% believed the products they used were somewhat safe or not safe.

The prevalence of personal protective equipment use among the survey participants varied.

68% indicated that they always wore aprons.

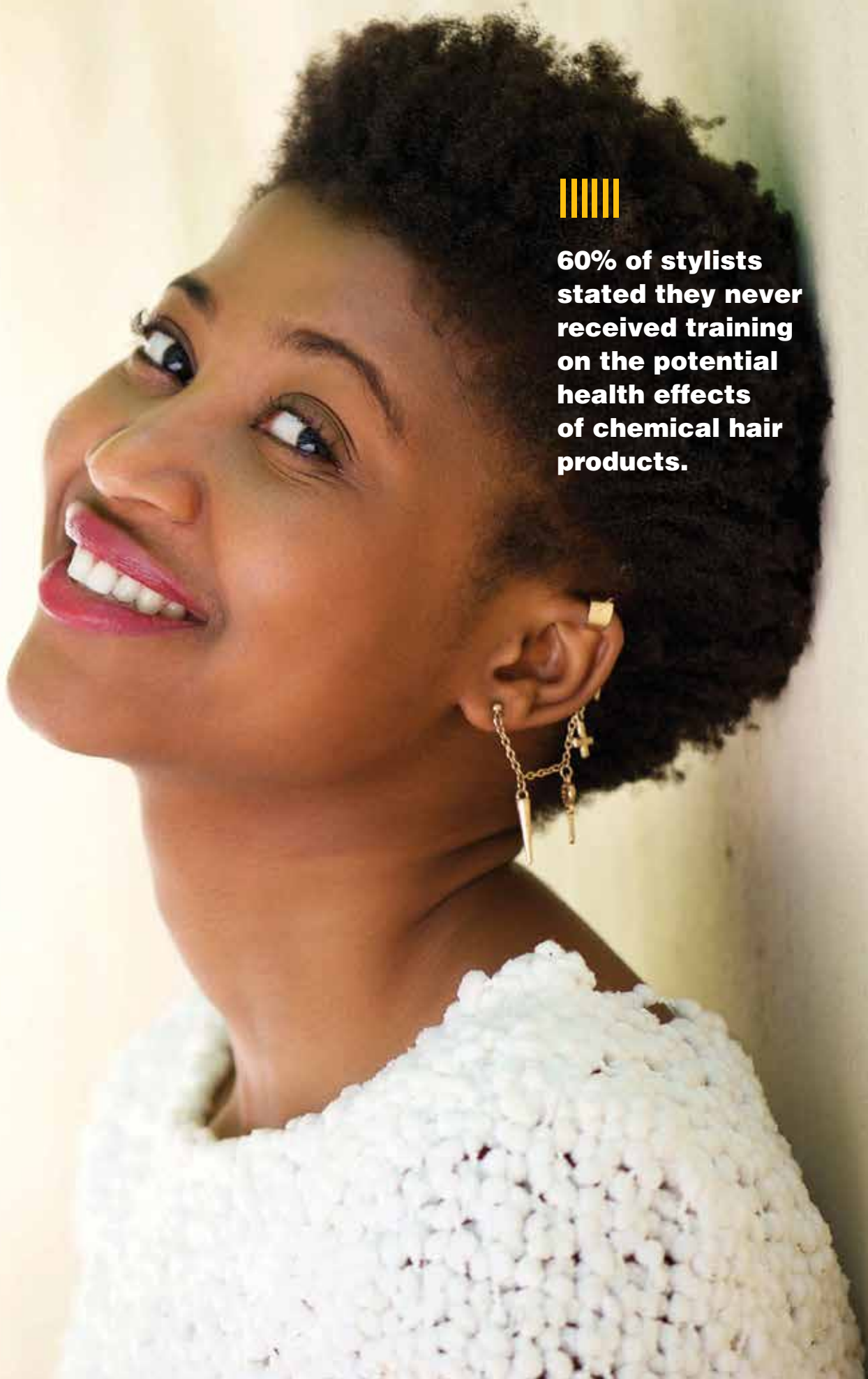
81% of the population surveyed indicated that they never wore protective eyewear, and 78% said they never wore face protection.

Glove use had the most variation with 45% of stylists responding that they never or rarely wore gloves and 50% of professionals responding that they always or often wore gloves.

60% of hair stylist indicated that they never received any training on the potential health effects of chemical hair products.



**60% of stylists
stated they never
received training
on the potential
health effects
of chemical hair
products.**



Health Effects

When asked how concerned they were about the effects of chemical products on their health, 78% of hair professionals surveyed said they were very concerned. Eighty-three percent (83%) of those same stylists that expressed that they were “very concerned,” also indicated that they were very concerned about the health effects of chemical products on the health of their clients.

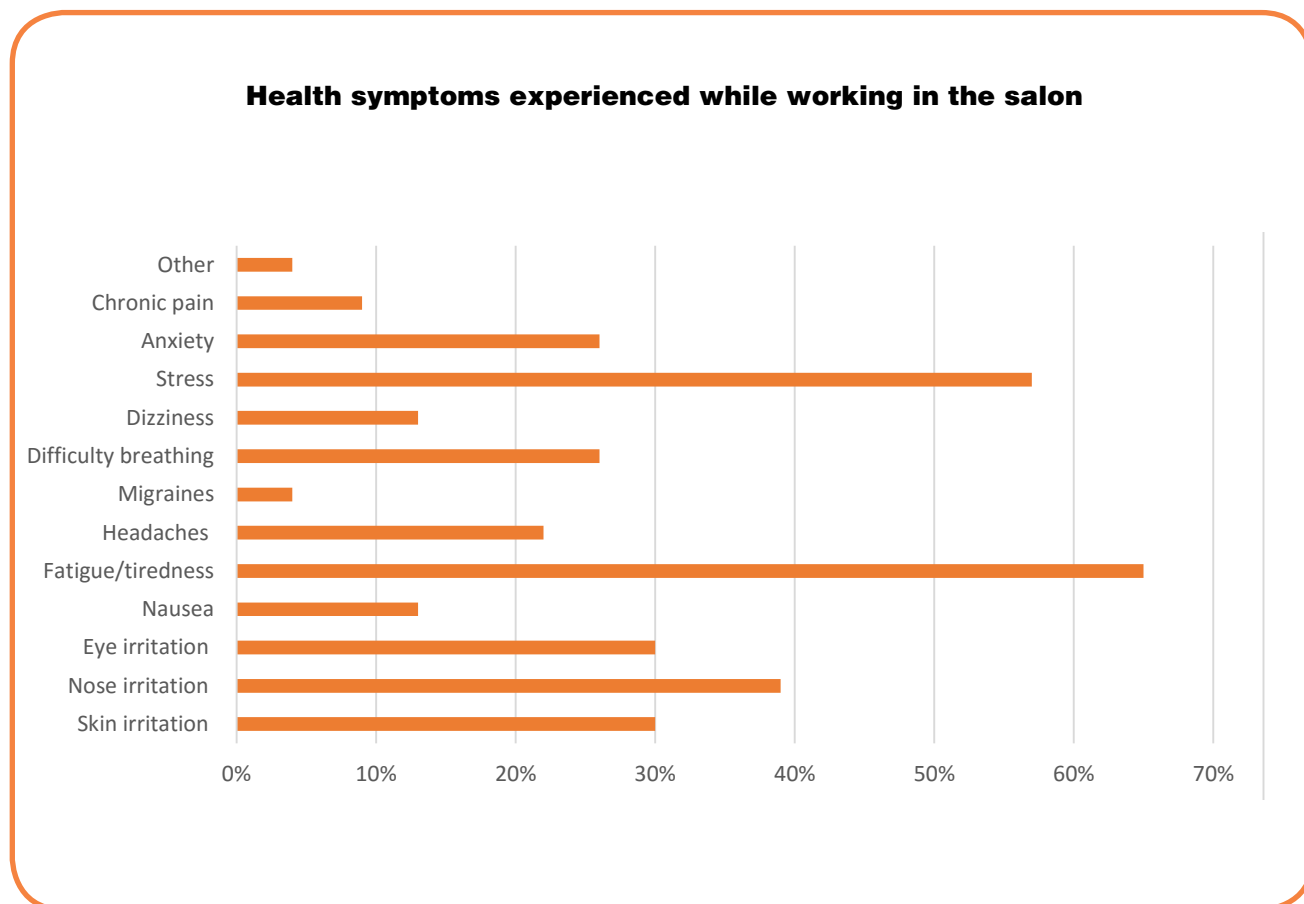


Figure 13: Bar graph of health symptoms experienced while working in the salon.

The most common health problems reported in relation to exposure in the field were stress, difficulty breathing, fatigue/tiredness, and nose irritation.

Top salon health problems reported included:

- 59% Fatigue/tiredness
- 54% Stress
- 27% Anxiety
- 27% Headaches
- 22% Difficulty breathing

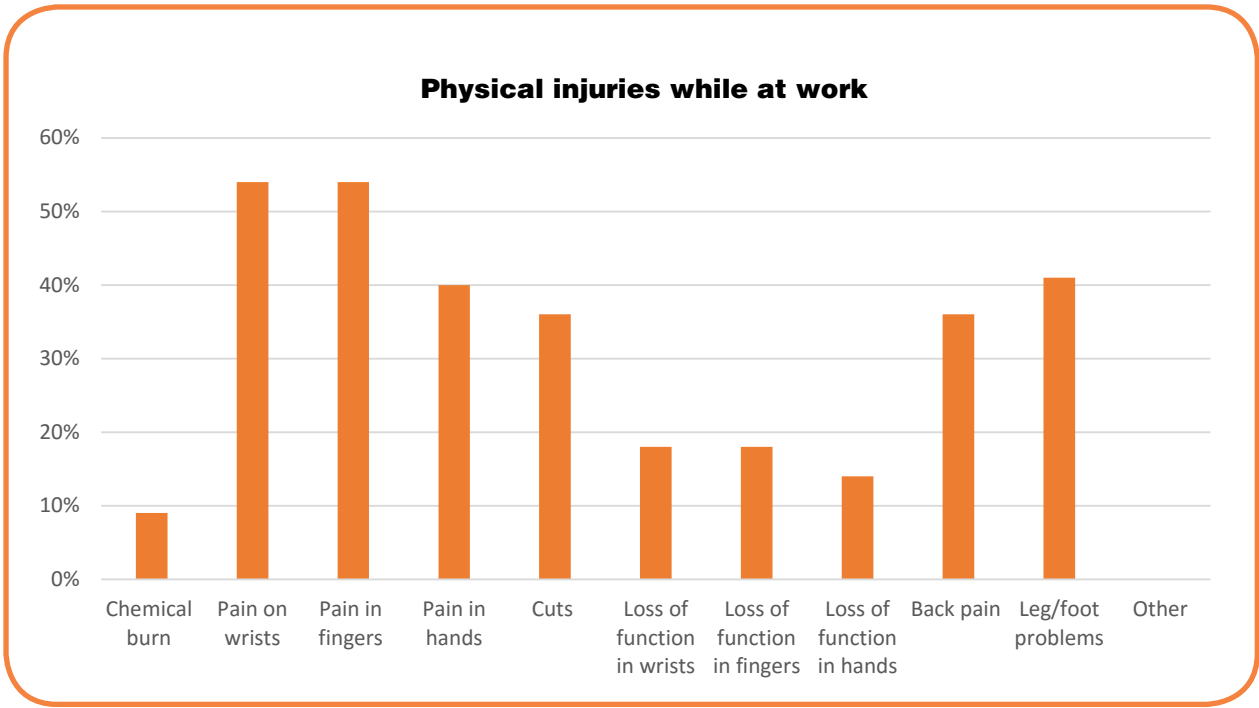


Figure 14: Bar graph of physical health symptoms reported.

The most common health problems reported in relation to exposure in the field were pain in wrists, pain in fingers, back pain, and leg/foot problems.

Top salon physical health problems reported included:

- 54% Pain in wrists
- 54% Pain in fingers
- 40% Pain in hands
- 36% Back pain

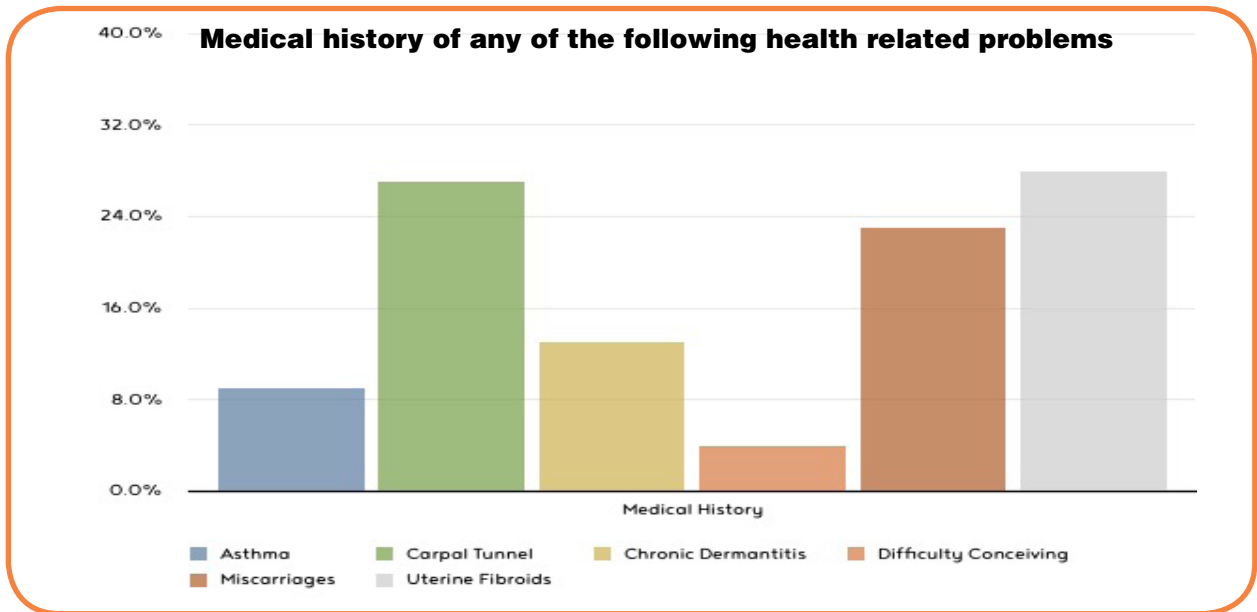
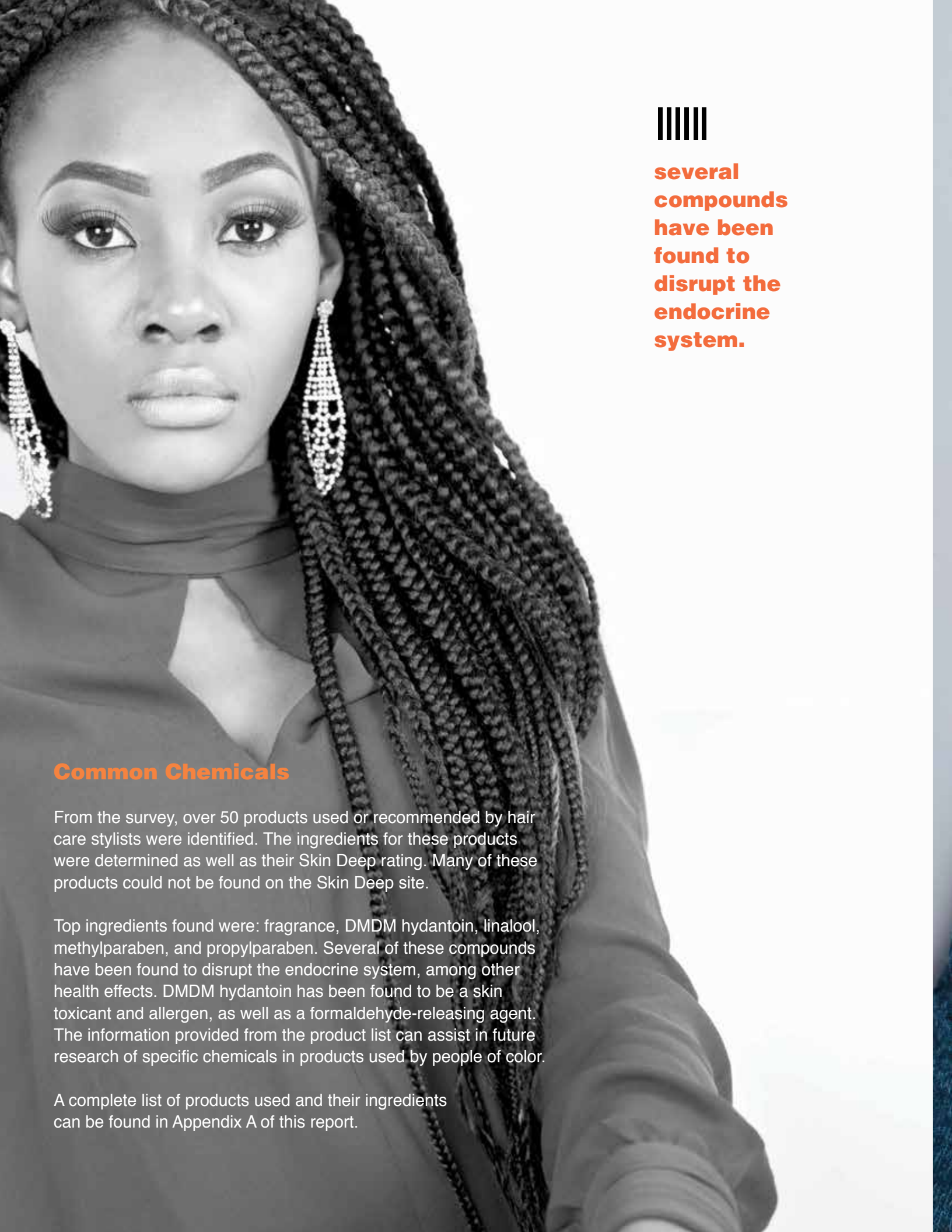


Figure 15: Bar graph of medical history of specific health related problems.

The most common health problems reported were carpal tunnel, uterine fibroids, and spontaneous abortion (miscarriage).

- 28% Uterine Fibroids
- 27% Carpal Tunnel
- 23% Miscarriage



**several
compounds
have been
found to
disrupt the
endocrine
system.**

Common Chemicals

From the survey, over 50 products used or recommended by hair care stylists were identified. The ingredients for these products were determined as well as their Skin Deep rating. Many of these products could not be found on the Skin Deep site.

Top ingredients found were: fragrance, DMDM hydantoin, linalool, methylparaben, and propylparaben. Several of these compounds have been found to disrupt the endocrine system, among other health effects. DMDM hydantoin has been found to be a skin toxicant and allergen, as well as a formaldehyde-releasing agent. The information provided from the product list can assist in future research of specific chemicals in products used by people of color.

A complete list of products used and their ingredients can be found in Appendix A of this report.

A close-up portrait of a Black woman with her hair pulled back, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a teal-colored sweater. She is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Moving forward:

All of the participants wanted to learn more about these particular issues and were open to learning about both environmental toxins and other reproductive justice issues. One participant noted, “[It is] important to educate communities and Black communities and meet them where they are, wherever that community may be.”

Based on analysis of survey results, BWW has identified specific next steps:

Education and Awareness

There is a need and want for information and training around toxic chemicals for both hair professionals and consumers. Adding curriculum in cosmetology schools about chemical exposure of hair products as well as ways to mitigate risk of chemical exposure would go a long way in decreasing health risks to professionals.

Making labels easier to read, and providing more information about the toxicity and health effects of chemicals would help to mitigate risk factors. In addition, developing affordable salon equipment stylists can use would help mitigate ergonomic risk factors such as musculoskeletal disorders.

Policy

Creating and enforcing policies and regulations that use the precautionary principle when evaluating chemical safety is an important step in mitigating the risk of toxic exposure to the public as well as with workers. In addition, a system is needed that can regulate and remove chemicals from personal care, hair and cleaning products that have a proven health risk in a timely and effective manner.

Having policies looking at labeling products of concern as well as maintaining an awareness of the need for stronger regulations on labeling and testing of products would allow consumers to make more informed choices about the products they wish to buy.

Research

There is very little research on the use and impact of toxic chemicals on communities of color. Both funding and research goals that are specifically aimed at Black women are needed in order to facilitate both policy and education related to the impact of toxic chemicals on the health of Black families.



References

1. Glanton, D. (2012, August 25). Our Hair-Brained Obsession. Chicago Tribune. Retrieved July 28, 2014, from <http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-08-25/news/ct-perspec-0826-hair-201208251hair-black-women-african-american-women>
2. Opiah, A. (2014, January 24). The Changing Business of Black Hair, a Potentially \$500b Industry. Huffington Post. Retrieved July 28, 2014, from <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/antonia-opiah/the-changing-business-of-b4650819.html>
3. "Legacy of Annie Malone and Madam C.J. Walker - The Village Celebration." The Village Celebration RSS. N.p., 03 May 2012. Web.
4. A population is a health disparity population if there is a significant disparity in the overall rate of disease incidence, prevalence, morbidity, mortality or survival rates in the population as compared to the health status of the general population. Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act United States Public Law 106-525 (2000), p. 2498
5. "DermNet NZ." Skin Problems in Hairdressers and Barbers. N.p., Jan. 2015. Web. 2 May 2015.
6. Mendes, Ana, Joana Madureira, Paula Neves, Carlos Carvalhais, Blanca Laffon, and João P. Teixeira. "Chemical Exposure and Occupational Symptoms Among Portuguese Hairdressers." *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, Part A* 74.15-16 (2011): 993-1000.
7. Hollund, B. E. Prevalence of Airway Symptoms among Hairdressers in Bergen, Norway. *Occupational and Environmental Medicine* 58.12 (2001)
8. Adeyeye, O. O., A. Adekoya, Y. Kuyinu, and Ogunleye Ayoola. Respiratory Symptoms and Pulmonary Functions of Hairdressers in Lagos, South West Nigeria. *EJournal of Biological Sciences* 6.1 (2007): 32-36.
9. "Minority Women's Health." Asthma. *Women's Health*, 16 July 2012.
10. Mandiracioglu, Aliye, Sukran Kose, Ayhan Gozaydin, Melda Turken, and Lutfiye Kuzucu. "Occupational Health Risks of Barbers and Coiffeurs in Izmir." *Indian Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* 13.2 (2009): 92.
11. Middlesworth, Mark. "Financial Burden of Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSD)." N.p., Dec. 21.
12. "ERGONOMICS AND MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 17 July 2014. Web.
13. Holtcamp, Wendee. "Obesogens: An Environmental Link to Obesity." *Environmental Health Perspectives* 120.2 (2012): A62-68.

14. Thayer, Kristina, Jerrold Heindel, John Bucher, and Michael Gallo. "Role of Environmental Chemicals in Diabetes and Obesity: A National Toxicology Program Workshop Review." *Environmental Health Perspectives* 120.6 (2012): 770-89
15. "Office of Minority Health." *Diabetes*. US Department of Health and Human Services, Nov. 2014.
16. Houlihan, Jane, Sean Gray, Timothy Kropp, and Chris Campbell. *Skin Deep: A Safety Assessment of Ingredients in Personal Care Products*. Rep.Print.
17. "Earth Talk." [Http://www.emagazine.com/earth-talk-archive/week-of-11-01-2003](http://www.emagazine.com/earth-talk-archive/week-of-11-01-2003). *The Environmental Magazine*, 1 Nov. 2003. Web.
18. Scranton, Alexandra. *Beauty and Its Beast: Unmasking the Impacts of Toxic Chemicals on Salon Workers*. Rep. *Women's Voices for the Earth*, Print.
19. "Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program Turning Cancer Data Into Discovery." *Cancer of the Breast*. National Cancer Institute, 2012.
20. Ibid [19]
21. Rylander, L. "Reproductive Outcome among Female Hairdressers." *Occupational and Environmental Medicine* 59.8 (2002): 517-22.
22. John, Esther M., David A. Savitz, and Carl M. Shy. "Spontaneous Abortions among Cosmetologists." *Epidemiology* 5.2 (1994): 147-55.
23. Rylander, L. "Reproductive Outcome among Female Hairdressers." *Occupational and Environmental Medicine* 59.8 (2002): 517-22
24. Wise, L. A., J. R. Palmer, D. Reich, Y. C. Cozier, and L. Rosenberg. "Hair Relaxer Use and Risk of Uterine Leiomyomata in African-American Women." *American Journal of Epidemiology* 175.5 (2012): 432-40.
25. Ibid [24]
26. James-Todd, Tamarra, Mary Beth Terry, Janet Rich-Edwards, Andrea Deierlein, and Ruby Senie. "Childhood Hair Product Use and Earlier Age at Menarche in a Racially Diverse Study Population: A Pilot Study." *Annals of Epidemiology* 21.6 (2011): 461-65.
27. Holtcamp, Wendee. "Obesogens: An Environmental Link to Obesity." *Environmental Health Perspectives* 120.2 (2012): A62-68.
28. Thayer, Kristina, Jerrold Heindel, John Bucher, and Michael Gallo. "Role of Environmental Chemicals in Diabetes and Obesity: A National Toxicology Program Workshop Review." *Environmental Health Perspectives* 120.6 (2012): 770-89
29. "Office of Minority Health." *Diabetes*. US Department of Health and Human Services, Nov. 2014.

APPENDIX A

List of hair care products along with ingredients and Skin Deep hazard rating commonly used by hair professionals. List also includes hair product recommendations made to clients by their hair care professional. Products range from chemically synthesized, to products made by the stylists, to raw natural products.

Skin Deep Hazard Scores: 0-2 Low Hazard, 3-6 Moderate Hazard, 7-10 High Hazard, N/A Score not Available

APPENDIX B: List of commonly found ingredients in 34 Hair Products

APPENDIX C: Geomap of salons surveyed

Table 1. PRODUCT NAME	INGREDIENTS	SKIN DEEP RATING
Black Magic Moisturizing Spray	Water, Propylene Glycol, PEG 75, Lanolin, Sodium Lauryl Sulfate, Hydrolyzed Wheat Protein Hydroxypropyl Polysiloxane, Iodine, Methyl Paraben, Dimethyloctadecylbenzylammonium Chloride, Glycerin.	N/A
Dudu-Osun African Black Soap	Pure Honey, Shea Butter, Osun (Camwood), Palm Kernel Oil, Cocoa Pod Ash, Palm Bunch Ash, Aloe Vera, Lime Juice, Lemon Juice, Water and Fragrance.	N/A
Eden Body Works Coconut Shea All Natural Pudding Souffle	Water, Cocos Nucifera (Coconut) Oil, Aloe Barbadensis (Aloe Vera), Butyrospermum Parkii (Shea) Butter, Cetyl Alcohol, Stearyl Alcohol.	N/A
Eden Body Works Coconut Shea Control Glaze Edge Gel	Water, Ceteareth-20, PEG 7, Glyceryl Cocoate, Cocos Nucifera (Coconut) Oil, Aloe Barbadensis (Aloe Vera) Leaf Juice, PEG 50, Shea Butter.	N/A
Eden Body Works Jojoba Monoi All Natural Hair Oil	Prunus Amygdalus Dulcis (Sweet Almond) Oil, Simmondsia Chinensis (Jojoba) Seed Oil, Coco Nut Oil, Tiare Flower, Melaleuca Alternifolia (Tea Tree) Leaf Oil, Lavandula Angustifolia (Lavender) Extract, Rosmarinus Officinalis (Rosemary) Extract.	N/A
Eden Body Works Jojoba Monoi All Natural Moisturizing Shampoo	Water (Aqua), Cocoamidopropyl Betaine, Sodium Lauryl Sulfoacetate, Disodium Laureth Sulfosuccinate, PEG-150 Distearate, Coco Nut Oil, Tiare Flower, Simmondsia Chinensis (Jojoba) Seed Oil, Melaleuca Alternifolia (Tea Tree) Leaf Oil, Tocopheryl Acetate (Vitamin E), Aloe Barbadensis Leaf Extract, Panthenol, Disodium EDTA, Cocamidopropyl Oxide, Citric Acid, PPG-20 Methyl Glucose Ether, Phenoxyethanol, Caprylyl Glycol, Sorbic Acid.	N/A
Eden Body Works Jojoba Monoi All Natural Revitalizing Conditioner	Water (Aqua), Cetyl Alcohol, Stearyl Alcohol, Behentrimonium Methosulfate, Coco Nut Oil, Tiare Flower, Simmondsia Chinensis (Jojoba) Seed Oil, Daucus Carota Sativa (Carrot) Seed Oil, Anthemis Nobilis (Camomile) Flower Oil, Melaleuca Alternifolia (Tea Tree) Leaf Oil, Prunus Amygdalus Dulcis (Sweet Almond) Oil, Tocopheryl Acetate (Vitamin E), Aloe Barbadensis Leaf Extract, Hydroxyethylcellulose, Disodium EDTA, Phenoxyethanol, Caprylyl Glycol, Sorbic Acid.	N/A

PRODUCT NAME	INGREDIENTS	SKIN DEEP RATING
Fantasia IC Leave in Moisturizer Treatment Aloe Complex	Water, Propylene Glycol, Hamamelis Virginiana, Aloe Barbadosensis Leaf Juice, Polyquaternium-7, polyquaternium-11, Polyquaternium-6, Ethoxydiglycol, Butylene Glycol, Lactic Acid, Tussilago Farfara Leaf Extract, Urtica Diodica Extract, Achillea Millefolium Extract, Rosmarinus Officinalis Leaf Extract, Betula Alba Juice, Equisetum Arvense Extract, Alcohol Denta, Niacinamide, Thiamine, Methylparaben, EDTA, Polysorbate 20, Fragrance (Parfum).	N/A
Herbatint Permanent Herbal Haircolor Gel	<p>Haircolor Gel: Laureth-5, Propylene Glycol, Water, PEG-2, Oleamine, Ethanolamine, Walnut Extract, Rhubarb Extract, Cinchona Extract, Aloe Extract, Meadowfoam Extract, Birch Extract, Cetrimonium Chloride, Echinacea Augustifolia Extract, Hamamelis Virginiana Extract, Sodium Sulfite, Ascorbic Acid, Tetrasodium EDTA, Resorcinol, M-O-P Aminophenol, 2 Amino 3 Hydroxypyridine, M-P Phenylenediamine.</p> <p>Glycol Developer: Water, Hydrogen Peroxide, Etidronic Acid, Wild Marjoram Extract, Thyme Extract, Cinnamon Extract, Rosemary Extract, Lavender Extract, Golden Seal Root Extract, PEG-40, Hydrogenated Castor Oil, Propylene Glycol, Simethicone.</p> <p>Royal Cream Conditioner: Water, Mallow Extracts, Rosemary Extract, Behentrimonium Chloride, Wheat Bran Lipids, Fragrance.</p>	N/A
Jamaican Mango & Lime Island Oil	Castor Oil, Carrot Oil, Ginkgo Nut Oil, Tea Tree Oil, Wheat Germ Oil, Olive Oil, Mango Extract, Lime Extract, Jojoba Oil, Hibiscus Oil, Sea Grape Oil, Passion Fruit Oil, Fragrance.	N/A
Jamaican Mango & Lime Lock Gro	Petrolatum, Mineral Oil, Camphor, Menthol, Castor Oil (Ricinus Communis Seed Oil), D&C Green 6, Yellow 11.	N/A
Jamaican Mango & Lime Locking Crème Wax	Pure Distilled Water, Bees Wax, Hibiscus Oil, Shea Butter, Essence of Lime, Essence of Mango, Petrolatum, Cetearyl and Cetareth 20, Fragrance.	N/A
Jamaican Mango & Lime Tingle Shampoo	Deionized Water (Aqua), Ammonium Lauryl Sulfate, Coco Betaine, Camphor, Menthol, Fragrance (Parfum), DMDM Hydantoin, D & C Yellow #10 (C147008), FD & C Blue #1 (C142090).	N/A

PRODUCT NAME	INGREDIENTS	SKIN DEEP RATING
Jamaican Mango & Lime Transition Natural Coiling Crème Pudding	Deionized Water, Polyquaternium 10, PEG 14, Glycerin, DMDM Hydantoin, Carbomer, PEG 33 and PEG 8 Dimethicone, Triethanolamine, Sodium Polyacrylate and Ethylhexylstearate Trideceth-6, Fragrance, Aloe Extract (Aloe Barbadensis), Garcilaria Extract (Allium Sativum), Honey, Marigold Extract (Calendula Officinalis), Papaya Extract (Carica), Kiwi Extract (Actinidia Chinensis), Sweet Almond Extract (Prumus Amygdalus), Mango Extract (Mangifera Indica), Lime Extract (Citrus Aurantifolia), Alma Oil (Emblica Officinalis), Argan Oil (Argania Spinosa), Sea Grape Extract (Vitis Vinifera).	N/A
Johnson’s Baby Powder Original	Talc, Fragrance.	4
KeraCare Edge Tamer	Water, Cetareath-25, Glycerin, PEG-7, Glyceryl Cocoate, PEG-40, Hydrogenated Castor Oil, Propylene Glycol, Propylene Glycol (and) Water (and) Pyrus Malus (Apple) Fruit Extract, Propylene Glycol (and) Water (and) Saccharum Officinarum (Sugar Cane) Extract, Propylene Glycol (and) Water (and) Citrus Medica Limonum (Lemon) Peel Extract, Propylene Glycol (and) Water (and) Camellia Oleifera Leaf Extract, Diazolinyl Urea (and) Iodopropynyl Butylcarbamate, Fragrance, Butylphenyl Methylpropional, Alpha-Isomethyl Ionone, Amyl Cinnamal, Benzyl Salicylate, Eugeniol, Geraniol, Hydroxycitronellal, Isoeugenol, Limonene, Linalool.	N/A
Luster’s Pink Oil Moisturizer Hair Lotion	Deionized Water (Aqua), Mineral Oil (Paraffinum Liquidum), Lanolin, Beeswax (Cera Alba), Petrolatum, Sodium Borate, Panthenol (Provitamin B5), Tocopherol (Vitamin E), Sorbitan Oleate, Ethylhexyl Dimethyl, PABA, Methylparaben, Propylparaben, Imidazolidinyl Urea , Fragrance/Parfum , Hexyl Cinnamal , Benzyl Salicylate, Limonene, Benzyl Benzoate, Alpha-Isomethyl Ionone, Linalool, Geraniol, Citronellol, Benzyl Alcohol, Red 33 - CI 17200.	6

PRODUCT NAME	INGREDIENTS	SKIN DEEP RATING
Marrakesh Hydrate Conditioner	Aqua, Cetyl Alcohol, Argania Spinosa (Argan) Kernel Oil, Cannabis Sativa (Hemp) Seed Oil, Panthenol, Cyclopentasiloxane, Dimethicone, Stearalkonium Chloride, Polyquaternium-7, Citric Acid, Hydrolyzed Wheat Protein, Hydrolyzed Wheat Starch, Ethylhexylglycerin, Phenoxyethanol, Fragrance/Parfum, Benzyl Benzoate, Hexyl Cinnamal, Butylphenyl Methylpropional, Limonene, Coumarin, BCC12-Base.	N/A
Marrakesh Nourish Shampoo	Water, Laureth Sulfosuccinate, Cocamidopropyl Betaine, Sodium Cocoyl Isethionate, Tocopheryl Acetate, Hydrolyzed Wheat Protein, Aloe Barbadensis Leaf Juice, Argania Spinosa (Argan Kernel Oil, Cannabis Sativa (Hemp) Seed Oil, Salis Alba (Willow) Bark Extract, Spiraea I'llmaria (Meadowsweet) Extract, Larrea Diviricate (Chaparral) Extract, Olea Europaea (Olive) Leaf Extract, Sodium Lauroyl Sarcosinate, Polyquaternium-7, Sodium PCA, Glycerin, PEG-150 Distearate, Ethylhexylglycerin, Phenoxyethanol, Parfum, Methylchloroisothiazolinone, Methylisothiazolinone, Chlorphenesin, Benzoic Acid, Sorbic Acid, Benzyl Benzoate, Hexyl Cinnamal, Butylphenyl Methylpropinal, Limonene, Coumarin, BCC12-Base.	N/A
Marrakesh Oil	Cyclopentasiloxane, Dimethicone, Phenyl Trimethicone, Argania Spinosa (Argan) Kernel Oil, Cannabis Sativa (Hemp) Seed Oil, Parfum, Hexyl Cinnamaldehyde, Benzyl Benzoate, Linalool, Coumarin, Limonene, BCC12-Base.	N/A
Motions at Home Lavish Conditioning Shampoo	Aqua, Sodium Lauryl Sulfate, Cocamidopropyl Betaine, PPG-5-Ceteth-10 Phosphate, Disodium Cocoamphodipropionate, PEG-30 Glyceryl Cocoate, Hydrolyzed Keratin, Hydrolyzed Silk Serica, Cocotrimonium Chloride, Glycol Distearate, Sodium C14-17 Alkyl Sec Sulfonate, Propylene Glycol, PEG-120 Methyl Glucose Dioleate , PEG-12 Dimethicone, Polyquaternium-10, Citric Acid, Methylparaben, Propylparaben, Diazolidinyl Urea, Linalool, Fragrance/Parfum.	6

PRODUCT NAME	INGREDIENTS	SKIN DEEP RATING
Motions at Home Moisture Plus Hair Conditioner	Water (Aqua), Mineral Oil (Paraffinum Liquidum), Polyquaternium 32, Glycerin, Quaternium 80, Dimethicone PEG 7 Isostearate, Dimethicone, Panthenol, DMDM Hydantoin, Amyl Cinnamal, Benzyl Salicylate, Butylphenyl Methoxypropional, Linalool, Parfum/Fragrance.	N/A
Motions at Home Oil Sheen & Conditioning Hair Spray	C13-14 Isoparaffin, Isobutane, Propane, Isodecyl Oleate, Fragrance, Linalool, Limonene, Hexyl Cinnamal, Butylphenyl Methoxypropional, Coumarin, Benzyl Cinnamate, Citronellol, Geraniol, Prunus Amygdalus Dulcis (Sweet Almond) Seed Oil, Simmondsia Chinensis (Jojoba) Seed Oil, SD Alcohol 40 A, Chamomilla Recutita (Matricaria) Flower Extract, Panax Ginseng Root Extract.	N/A
Murray's Superior Hair Dressing Pomade	Petrolatum, Mineral Oil, Fragrance.	3
Organic Root Stimulator Olive Oil Sheen Spray	Light Mineral Oil, Isobutane, Olive Oil, Vegetable Oil, Lanolin Oil, Tocopherol Vitamin E, Extracts of Aloe Vera, Horsetail, Nettle, Chamomile, Dimethicone Copolyol, Myristyl Myristate, Propylparaben, Fragrant Oils, Hexyl Cinnamic Aldehyde, Linal, D'Limonene, Linalool, Lylal, Alpha Iso Methyl Ionone.	6
Perfect Purity Extra Hold Volumizing Mousse	Water, Propane Butane, Acrylates Copolymer, Glycerin, Laureth-23, Triethanolamine, Fragrance/Parfum, Lauramine Oxide, Sodium Benzoate	N/A
Personal Care Designer Fragrance Deodorant Body Powder	N/A	N/A
Sea Breeze Astringent for Skin and Scalp	Water, SD Alcohol 40 B, Glycerin, Benzoic Acid, Camphor, Clove (Eugenia Caryophyllus) Oil, Eucalyptus Globulus Oil, Fragrance, Yellow 5, Green 5, Orange 4.	N/A
Shea Moisture Raw Shea Butter Restorative Conditioner	Deionized Water, Butyrospermum Parkii (Shea Butter) (Certified Organic Ingredient), Argan Oil, Coconut Oil (Certified Organic Ingredient), Behentrimonium Chloride, Essential Oil Blend, Vegetable Glycerin, Emulsifying Wax, Sea Kelp Extract, Panthenol (Vitamin B-5), Avocado Oil, Lonicera Caprifolium (Honeysuckle) Flower (and) Lonicera Japonica (Japanese Honeysuckle) Flower Extract, Tocopherol (Vitamin E), Daucus Carota Sativa (Carrot) Seed Oil.	N/A

PRODUCT NAME	INGREDIENTS	SKIN DEEP RATING
SoftSheen-Carson Sportin' Waves Maximum Hold Pomade	Petrolatum, Paraffinum Liquidum/Mineral Oil, Polysorbate 20, Paraffin, Parfum/Fragrance, Dimethicone, Salicylic Acid, Benzyl Salicylate, Hexyl Cinnamal, Linalool, Benzyl Alcohol, Citronellol, Geraniol, Amyl Cinnamal, Limonene, Benzyl Benzoate.	N/A
Tigi Bed Head Self Absorbed Mega Nutrient Shampoo	Aqua/Water/Eau (Water), Sodium Laureth Sulfate, Cocamidopropyl Betaine, Sodium Cocoyl Isethionate, Cocamide MEA, Parfum/Fragrance (Fragrance), Amyl Cinnamal, Benzyl Alcohol, Benzyl Benzoate, Benzyl Salicylate, Hexylcinnamal, Limonene, Linalool, Phytantriol, Tocopheryl Acetate (Vitamin E), Retinyl Acetate (Vitamin A), Sodium Riboflavin Phosphate, Panthenol, Allantoin (Comfrey Root), Glycerin, Glycol Stearate, Guar Hydroxypropyltrimonium Chloride, Citric Acid, Methylchloroisothiazolinone, FD&C Yellow 6 Aluminum Lake (Yellow 6), CI 16035 (Red 40).	6
Tigi Bed Head Hair Stick	Ricinus Communis (Castor) Seed Oil, Hydrogenated Castor Oil, Cera Alba (Beeswax), Rhus Ucedanea Fruit (Wax)Euphorbia Cerifera (Candelilla Cera) Wax, Sorbitan Stearate, BHT, Parfum (Fragrance), BenzylUcedane, Linalool.	4
Tigi Bed Head Self Absorbed Mega Nutrient Conditioner	Aqua/Water/Eau (Water), Cetearyl Alcohol, Behentrimonium Methosulfate, Glyceryl Stearate, PEG 100 Stearate, Trimethylsiloxyamodimethicone, Octoxynol 40, Isolaureth 6, Cetearyl Alcohol, Stearalkonium Chloride, Dicytyldimonium Chloride, Stearyl Alcohol, Parfum/Fragrance (Fragrance), Amyl Cinnamal, Benzyl Alcohol, Benzyl Salicylate, Hexylcinnamal, Limonene, Linalool, Cetrimonium Chloride, Panthenol, Hydroxyethylcellulose, Cyclomethicone, Dimethiconol, Imidazolidinyl Urea, Methylparaben, Propylparaben, Disodium EDTA, Citric Acid, Aloe Vera (Aloe Barbadensis) Leaf Juice, Retinyl Acetate (Vitamin A), Magnesium Ascorbyl Phosphate (Vitamin C), Tocopheryl Acetate (Vitamin E), CI 16035 (Red 40), FD&C Yellow 5 Aluminum Lake (Yellow 5).	N/A

PRODUCT NAME	INGREDIENTS	SKIN DEEP RATING
Tresemme Shampoo Anti-Breakage	Water (Aqua), Sodium Laureth Sulfate, Cocamidopropyl Betaine, Cocodimonium Hydroxypropyl Hydrolyzed Wheat Protein, Polyquaternium-39, Quaternium-22, Polyquaternium-10, Cyanocobalamin, Gelatin/Keratin Amino Acids/Lysine Hydroxypropyltrimonium Chloride, Tocopheryl Acetate, Biotin, Niacinamide, Ascorbic Acid, Panthenol, Citric Acid, Ammonium Chloride, Polysorbate 20, DMDM Hydantoin, Tetrasodium EDTA, Fragrance (Parfum).	N/A
Legacy Shampoo and Conditioner	N/A *Product made by hair professional	N/A
Mama's Mudd Whip	N/A *Product made by hair professional	N/A
50% Isopropyl Rubbing Alcohol	N/A *Manufacturer was not identified by hair professional	N/A
Disinfectant	N/A *Manufacturer was not identified by hair professional	N/A
Antiseptic	N/A *Manufacturer was not identified by hair professional	N/A
Hydrogen Peroxide	N/A *Manufacturer was not identified by hair professional	N/A
After Shave	N/A *Brand and/or Manufacturer was not identified by hair professional	N/A
Raw Shea Butter	N/A *Access to this raw natural product was not identified by hair professional	N/A
Raw Coconut Oil	N/A *Access to this raw natural product was not identified by hair professional	N/A

APPENDIX B: List of commonly found ingredients in 34 Hair Products

Commonly Found Ingredients in 34 Hair Products	Count	Percentage (%)
Water	24	70.6
Fragrance	21	61.8
Linalool	11	32.4
Limonene	9	26.5
Tocopheryl acetate (Vitamin E)	9	
Glycerin	8	23.5
Panthenol	8	
Benzyl benzoate	6	17.6
Benzyl salicylate	6	
Citric Acid	6	
Amyl cinnamal	5	14.7
Butylphenyl methylpropional	5	
Dimethicone	5	
Hexyl cinnamal	5	
Methylparaben	5	
Petrolatum	5	
Propylene glycol	5	
Benzyl alcohol	4	11.8
Cocamidopropyl betaine	4	
Coumarin	4	
DMDM hydantoin	4	
Gerainol	4	
Mineral oil	4	
Phenoxyethanol	4	
Propylparaben	4	
Simmondsia chinensis seed oil	4	
Aloe barbadensis leaf extract	3	8.8
Alpha-isomethyl ionone	3	
Argania spinosa kernel oil	3	
BCC12-Base	3	
Camphor	3	

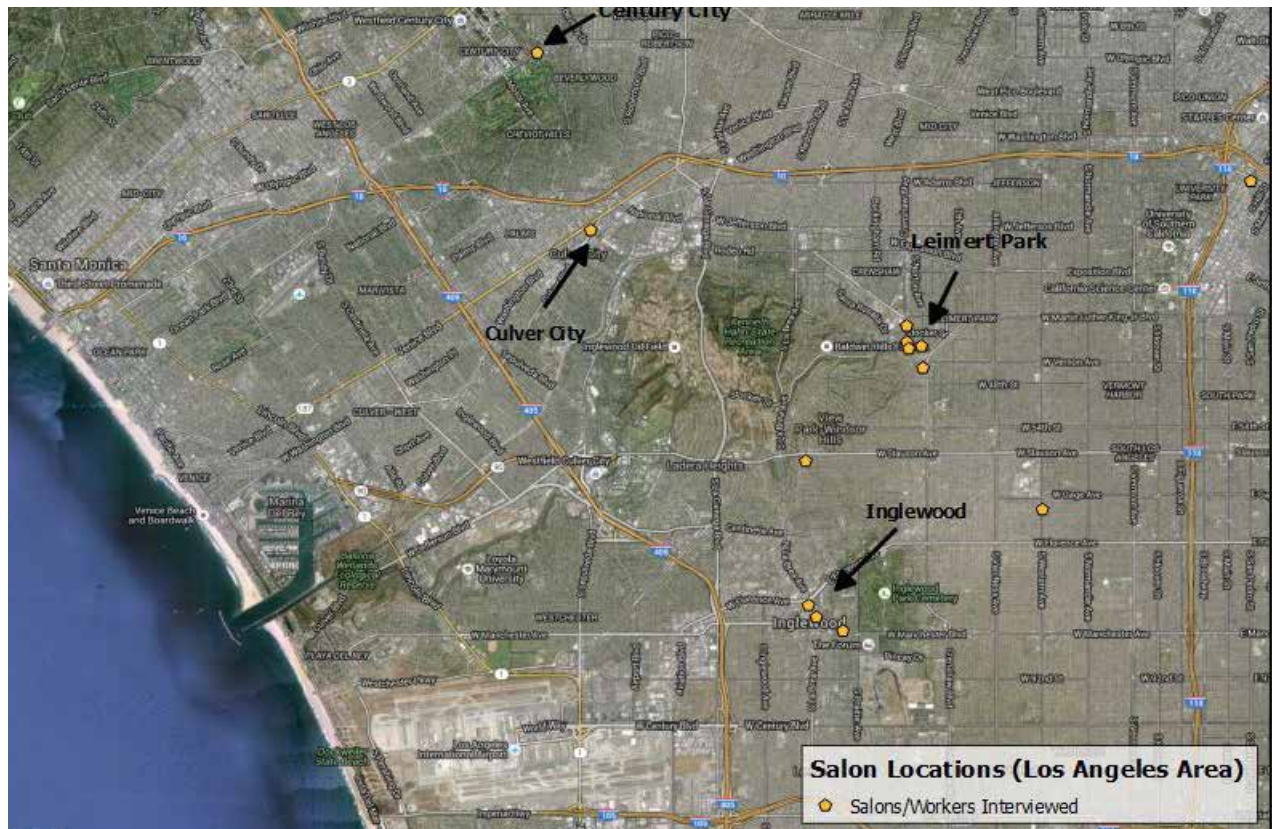
APPENDIX B: List of commonly found ingredients in 34 Hair Products

Commonly Found Ingredients in 34 Hair Products	Count	Percentage (%)
Cannabis sativa seed oil	3	
Cetyl alcohol	3	
Coco nut oil	3	
Citronellol	3	
Disodium EDTA	3	
Hydrogenated castor oil	3	
Hydrolyzed wheat protein	3	
Melaleuca alternifolia leaf oil	3	
Parfum	3	
Polyquaternium	10	3
Polyquaternium	7	3
Polysorbate	20	3
Prunus amygdalus dulcis oil	3	
Shea butter	3	
Sorbic acid	3	
Stearyl alcohol	3	
Tiare flower	3	
Aloe barbadensis leaf juice	2	5.9
Aloe extract	2	
Argan oil	2	
Ascorbic acid	2	
Bees wax	2	
Behentrimonium chloride	2	
Behentrimonium methosulfate	2	
Benzoic acid	2	
Caprylyl glycol	2	
Castor oil	2	
Ceteareth-20	2	
Cetearyl alcohol	2	
Cetrimonium chloride	2	
CI 16035 (Red 40)	2	

APPENDIX B: List of commonly found ingredients in 34 Hair Products

Commonly Found Ingredients in 34 Hair Products	Count	Percentage (%)
Cyclopentasiloxane	2	
Daucus carota sativa seed oil	2	
Diazolininyl urea	2	
Ethylhexylglycerin	2	
Glyceryl cocoate	2	
Hexylcinnamal	2	
Hibiscus oil	2	
Hydroxyethylcellulose	2	
Imidazolidinyl urea	2	
Isobutane	2	
Lanolin	2	
Lime extract	2	
Mango extract	2	
Menthol	2	
Methylchloroisothiazolinone	2	
Niacinamide	2	
Olive oil	2	
PEG 150 distearate	2	
PEG 40	2	
PEG 7	2	
Retinyl acetate (Vitamin A)	2	
Rosemary extract	2	
Sodium cocoyl isethionate	2	
Sodium laureth sulfate	2	
Sodium lauryl sulfate	2	
Stearalkonium chloride	2	
Tetrasodium EDTA	2	
Triethanolamine	2	

APPENDIX C: Geomap of salons surveyed





bww programs

Sisters@Eight held on the 2nd Friday of each month, this program brings a wealth of information to health professionals, leaders, advocates and the community to help empower, mobilize, and organize toward advocacy.

Sisters with Options (SWO) engages with community members, leaders and advocates to raise public awareness about the new health insurance marketplace by providing presentations to help with exploring health insurance options.

EPICCS (Education Program to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screenings), in partnership with Georgia Regent University, educates community members on the importance of cancer screenings with saving lives.

Sisters in Motion is a program developed to decrease the rate of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity within the Black community through regular exercise, physical activity and movement.

Kitchen Divas conducts food demonstrations and workshops, provides health education and advocacy which support and encourage lifestyle change via nutrition and exercise.

National Diabetes Prevention Program Change Your Lifestyle, Change Your Life works with employers offering lifestyle coaching and health education to prevent diabetes at the work site.

Sisters in Control Reproductive Justice Program supports policy, works with advisory councils and boards to secure reproductive justice for women and girls.

Get Smart B4U Get Sexy (GS B4U GS) supports peer advocates with learning how to shift attitudes on sex and sexuality through comprehensive sex and sexuality education, promoting smart as sexy and making sex smart.

Environmental Justice engages community members to influence local, state and national level policies that regulate the safety of chemical use in cosmetics and personal care products.

The Healthy Hair Initiative generates and publishes community driven research by working with beauty professionals, hair stylists and nail technicians studying the impact of chemical use on health status.

Civic Engagement and Voter Education increases the electoral and political power of Black women through voter education, registration, and outreach during and between elections.

Internet Quilt keeps pace with the cyber world through www.bwwla.org and many social media platforms. We also share knowledge and skills with friends and family via workshops, webinars and classes.

Black Women for Wellness convenes **annual conferences and/or health institutes** that provide deeper exploration of causal factors impacting the health and well-being of women & girls.

Black Women for Wellness produces **educational material** on a variety of subjects including: voter education, toxic chemicals, reproductive health status, healthy cooking and independent research on the health of Black women and girls.

be well.





“

“My mother would make her own products and solutions, with simple things like vinegar and water.”



Black Women for Wellness (BWW) is committed to healing, educating, and supporting Black women and girls. For more information, to volunteer, share information, ask questions, comment or communicate with Black Women for Wellness try one of these

www.bwwla.com • www.bwwla.org

Facebook • Twitter bw4wla

T 323 290 5955

