

# A snapshot of Immigrant Hispanic women working in cattle feedyards in the Midwestern United States

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## BACKGROUND

There is a high concentration of cattle feedyards in the Midwestern part of the U.S. As operations' size and scale grow, producers are increasingly dependent on a hired workforce, particularly Hispanic/Latino immigrants. Studies suggest that many Latina immigrants are employed as hired livestock workers in dairy and hog farms. However, limited research addresses women's engagement in other types of intensive animal feeding operations in the U.S. such as cattle feedyards, which have been reported to have high occupational injury rates.

## METHODS

Data are from the "Health and Safety among Latino Immigrant Cattle Feedyard Workers in the Central States Region" project (n = 243; 9.1% female).

- **Participants:** Adults (Kansas ≥ 18; Nebraska ≥ 19) employed on cattle feedyard operations who self identified as immigrants of Hispanic/Latino descent
- **Procedures:** Interviews were based on a structured questionnaire assessing physical health, occupational context, prevention opportunities, emotional health and stress, and demographics.

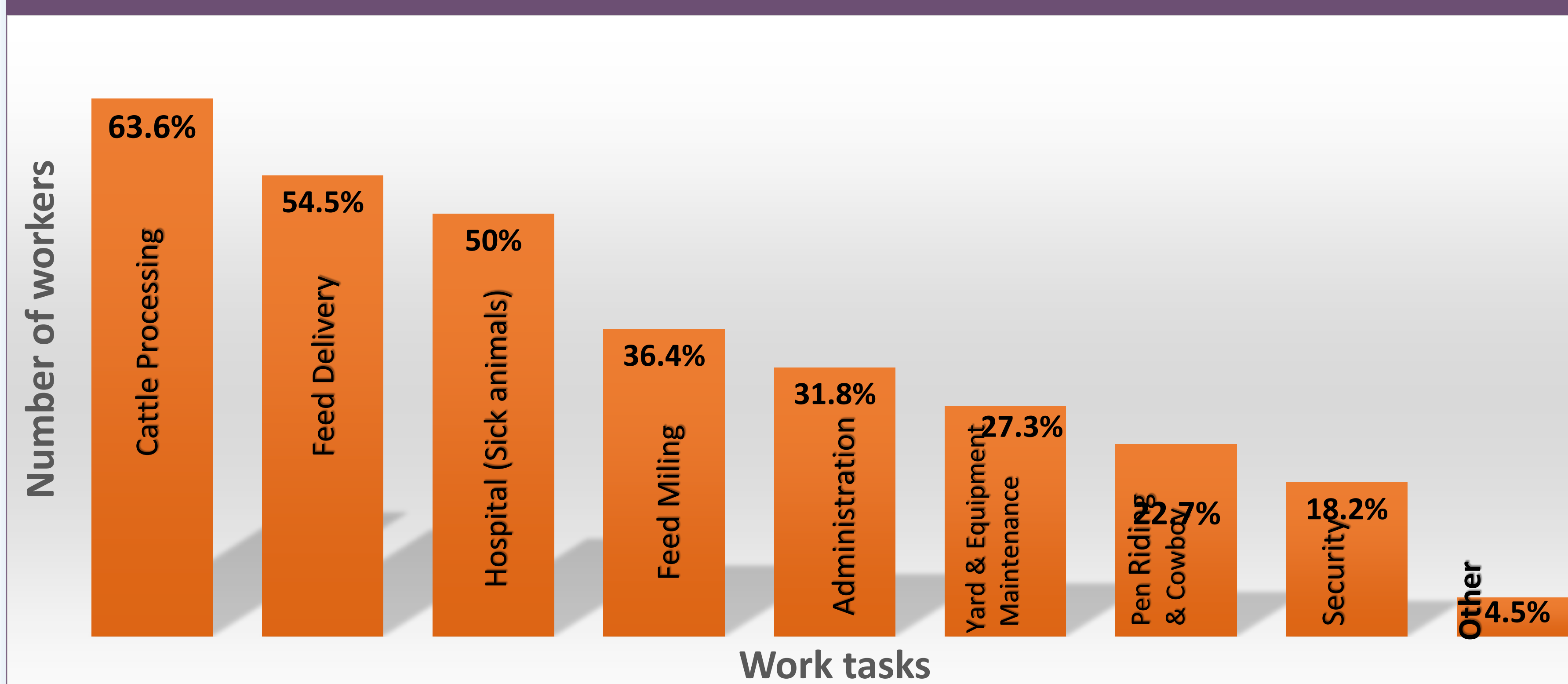
## RESULTS

Women are engaged in a variety of tasks on cattle feedyards (Figure 1).

## DISCUSSION

- Females participate in male-dominated hazardous activities such as animal-handling.
- Future research should focus on the occupational risks associated with job tasks conducted by female livestock workers.
- Agricultural health and safety outreach and training should be tailored by gender

**Latina immigrant women working in Midwestern feedyards are engaged in dangerous animal-handling tasks with limited regular and ongoing health and safety training, increasing their likelihood of injuries and lost productive time.**



**Figure 1. Job-related activities reported by female cattle feedyard workers (n=22)**

## RESULTS

*Table 1. Demographic and job-related characteristics of female participants (n=22)*

Characteristics	N (%)	M (SD)
Country of origin		
Mexico	15 (68.2)	
Other	7 (31.8)	
Age (years)		38 (9.4)
Length of time living in U.S. (years)		14.3 (12.2)
Income (dollars per week)		524 (211.8)
Marital Status		
Married / member of unmarried couple	14 (63.6)	
Single	4 (18.2)	
Divorced / Separated	4 (18.2)	
Children in the household (n=21)		1 (1)
Age of oldest child (n=9)		14 (2.1)
Education (n=21)		
Not high school graduate	12 (57.1)	
High school graduate / GED	9 (42.9)	
Limited English proficient	12 (54.5)	
Time working in agriculture (years)		10 (10.1)
Time working on cattle feedyards (years; n=21)		5 (6.8)
Average days of work per week		5.3 (0.63)
Average hours worked per day		9 (2.5)
Number of workers on the feedyard (Approx)		18 (17.0)
Number of cattle on the feedyard (Approx)		23,682 (27,682)
Health and safety training received from employer (n=21)	14 (66.7)	
Ever been injured on a feedyard	6 (27.3)	
Number of times injured on the job at a feedyard		4 (3.8)

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