

SEA MAR Safer Cleaning Partnership 2020



***“Since the training
I gave up hazardous
cleaning products and
my health has improved.”***

-Safer Cleaning Participant

Sea Mar Community Health Centers, a community-based organization, is committed to providing quality, comprehensive health, human, housing, educational and cultural services to diverse communities, specializing in service to Latinos.

The Hazardous Waste Management Program (Haz Waste Program) offers education, assistance, and incentives to reduce hazardous and toxic material exposures where people live and work in King County.

OVERVIEW

Haz Waste Program partnered with Sea Mar Community Health Centers in 2020, for the second year, to increase awareness of the hazards of using disinfectants in the Spanish-speaking immigrant community in King County and to teach safer ways to clean their homes.

This project is the result of many years of listening to the Hispanic/Latino community and responding to their requests to learn safer cleaning methods. In 2018, Hispanic/Latino community leaders gathered and prioritized their top two health concerns around household cleaning: the overuse of disinfectants and the possible hazardous and toxic exposure from mixing chemicals. In response to this, Haz Waste Program worked side by side with Sea Mar to create a training program that would work best for their community to address the health risks of these two common practices.

Virtual Trainings During COVID-19



In a virtual visit, Sea Mar staff shows participant on her smartphone how to tell if a product is hazardous.

PROJECT GOALS

The goal of the project was to reduce hazardous and toxic chemical exposures in the homes of Hispanic/Latinos from household cleaning products.

Our objectives were:

- **Increase awareness of the health risks of using bleach**
- **Increase awareness of the hazards of mixing different cleaning products**
- **Teach how to identify whether a household cleaner is hazardous or safe**
- **Modify participants' cleaning practices from using hazardous cleaning products to safer cleaning products for two months**

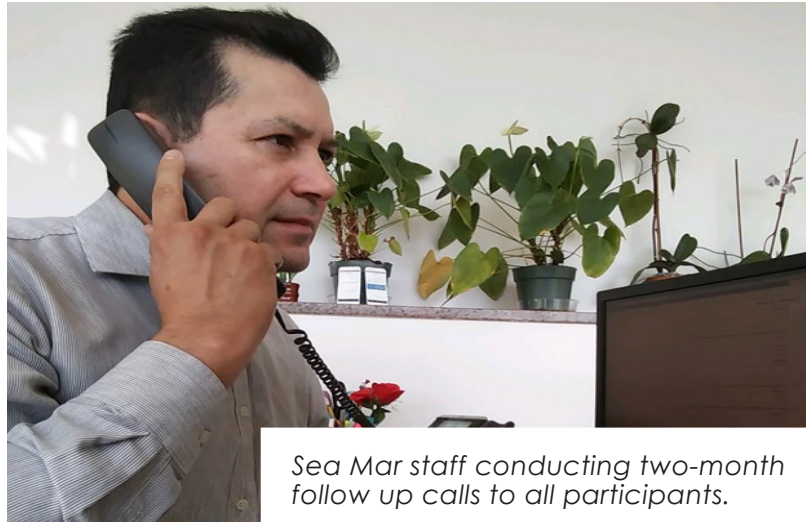
PARTICIPANTS

Sea Mar recruited participants from 11 cities in South King County. All were recent immigrants and represented nine countries.

In the previous year (2019) Sea Mar had partnered with Haz Waste Program to train participants in person and in their homes. In 2020, with the COVID-19 shutdown, Sea Mar quickly adapted their in-person training with the idea of using WhatsApp or Zoom to do the trainings. Demonstrating considerable flexibility and resilience, Sea Mar provided 100 virtual in-home trainings.

Sea Mar also conducted two workshops on El Rey 1360 AM radio station and Facebook Live, reaching 315 participants.

Two Month Follow-Up



Sea Mar staff conducting two-month follow up calls to all participants.

RESULTS: MEETING OUR GOALS

After two months, Sea Mar called all 100 participants to evaluate the success of the training by asking the same questions they asked prior to the training. Seventy-one people answered the questions. Below are the results from these 71 participants:

BEFORE		AFTER
99% 👎	Use bleach to clean	66% 👍
31% 👎	Mix cleaning products	9% 👍
58% 👎	Know if a cleaning product can hurt them	99% 👍



96% were still using the safer cleaning products and recipes two months after the training.

MATERIALS PROVIDED IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID

"I used to use [bleach]. After the training I do not use it anymore."

"Why did I use [bleach?] Because that is the way I was taught, and it was from generation to generation. [Since the training] I do not use it."

"[The trainers] taught me to read the labels that are on the back [of cleaning products] and indicate they are hazardous."

"[Since the training] I gave up [hazardous cleaning products] and my health has improved."

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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Available in alternative formats.
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