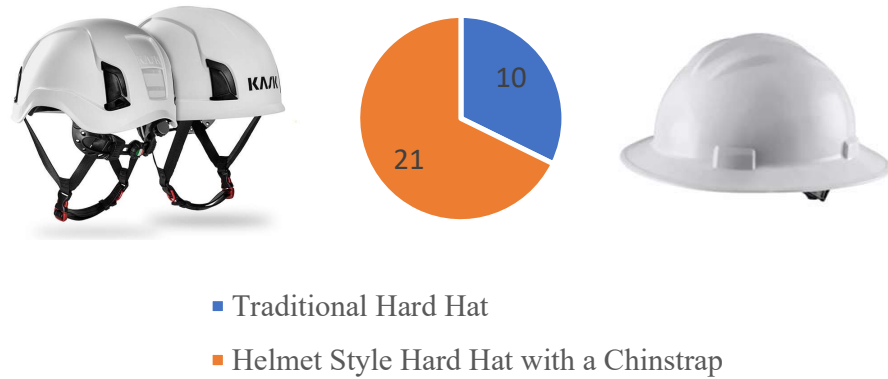


Survey Findings

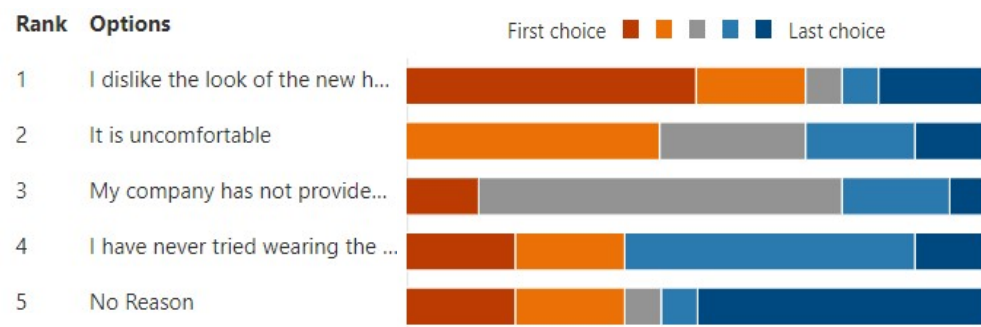
What kind of head protection do you currently wear?



If you were able to choose the type of head protection you wore, which do you prefer?

	Prefer Hard Hat	Prefer Helmet
≤ 5 yrs Experience	8	8
> 5 yrs Experience	11	4
Total Workers	19	12

If you do not currently wear a new helmet hard hat with a strap, please rank your reasons below. (1 = the most important, 5 = least important)



Workers Head Protection Preferences in Construction

ABSTRACT

Head injuries are one of the most common ways workers are injured on a construction site, but head protection has not evolved over the last few decades. A new style of head protection, a safety helmet is being introduced to better protect workers, but the new style has not been widely adopted. A survey was conducted to determine workers preferences when choosing head protection and 31 responses were collected. 68% of the respondents currently wear a safety helmet, but 60% of the respondents would choose a traditional helmet if given the choice. 73% workers with more than 5 years of experience preferred a traditional helmet, while 50% of the workers with less than 5 years of experience preferred a safety helmet. The respondents made it clear that comfort was the most important feature to them when they choose head protection. The appearance of head protection was not the most important factor to the more experienced workers, but some respondents voiced that they do not understand why the design needs to change. Helmets are still very new to construction workers on the west coast, but with more companies introducing the helmets on jobsites, workers will gain a wider acceptance for them.

Key Words: Safety, Hard Hat, Helmet, Construction, Head Protection

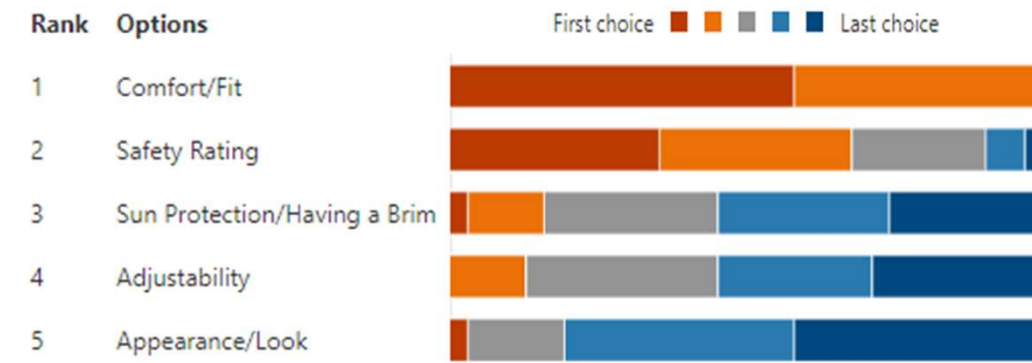
Methodology

- Purpose: To gain knowledge about construction workers head protection preferences
- Anonymous Microsoft Forms Survey (20 Questions)
- Emailed to CMAC Members and 9 recent Cal Poly Graduates working for GC's
- Findings: Qualitative and Quantitative data

Data Analysis

- Workers with more experience prefer a traditional hard hat. The most important features to them are comfort and sun protection. The majority of the workers do not mind the appearance of the new helmet, but they are concerned with comfortability and sun protection.
- Workers with less experience were more willing to accept the change of wearing new safety helmets. They were more worried about appearance than futures but most of the younger workers did not mind the appearance of the new helmet.
- Overall, introducing the new helmets does present a challenge for management, but the helmet does create a safer environment for the workers and companies should consider taking steps to improve head protection.

Please rank the hard hat features that are most important to you when selecting a hard hat (1 = the most important, 5 = least important)



Does the appearance of the new helmets have an impact on whether you would wear a helmet with a strap?



Workers Concerns about Helmets

- “I have worn traditional hard hats for over 30 years and have never had any issues. Why do people insist on trying to change or fix something there's nothing wrong with?”
- “I don't like the visor on the helmet as much as I prefer a hard hat and safety glasses.”
- “This is a concern that is currently subsiding but wearing a chin strap and a mask would be cumbersome. There are tasks in construction other than COVID that require the frequent use of masks for lung protection.”