

# QSS20S1 Final Project Memo 1

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## 1 What I learned

One point that came across pretty clearly in the reading is that the W.H.D. of the D.O.L. is underfunded and understaffed. Even though it is underfunded and understaffed, there are an immense number of violations found. Most of those violations are committed by farm labor contractors.

Another point that I found interesting is that despite the decreasing number of investigations each year and the reduction in W.H.D. staff, the majority (about 70 percent) of investigation find violations. This makes me agree with the reading in that these violations that have been found “may just be the tip of the iceberg.” An even higher percentage of violations was found in investigations of farm labor contractors.

I also learned that there are many challenges to finding wage and hour violations. One being the under-staffing and under-funding of the wage and hour division of the department of labor. Another being the inaccuracy of employment records for the farmworkers hired every year.

## 2 Gaps and questions

1. One question I have is in relation to investigations and repeat violators. If we look at the unique violators from 2000-2018, what percent of the violators in 2019 are repeat offenders?

In my mind this seems feasible for our class, but perhaps it is not because of the sheer amount of data we would have to go through. Maybe there is a way we can make this question smaller or more specific so we are not simply replicating something somewhat talked about in the reading.