

QSS20S1 Final Project Memo 1

Alexis Reaves

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1 What I learned

H-2A employee rights' violations can be measured using data from the Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC). Violations can also be found in documentation from the Wage and Hour Division (WHD).

The total number of potential violators can be measured using data from the Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (UCIS), and the Bureau of Consular Affairs.

Researchers received general temporary labor certification data, a list of employers debarred for violations, and the certificates associated with said employers from the OFLC. The number of employers found guilty of violations, along with the number of times, was analyzed from WHD data. The researchers gathered information about employers using a list of approved petitions from USIC, then interviewed two H-2A employers. Finally, they used summary data about visa insurance from the Bureau of Consular Affairs to infer the number of H-2A visas issued during the relevant years.

2 Gaps and questions

Gaps in the data include the lack of visa specification in data from the Office of Inspector General. This was also the case with data from the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice's Criminal Department.

A possible research question to tackle is how might we devise a way to catch employers who try to circumvent their debarring time by changing their name.