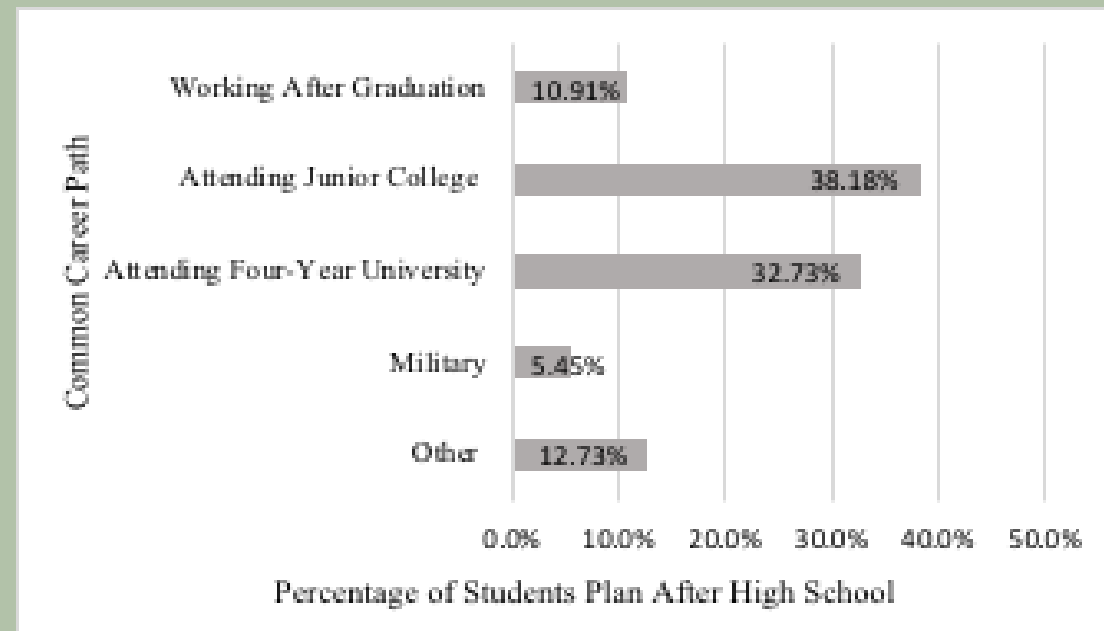


# Reintroduction of Skilled Trade Programs for High School Students

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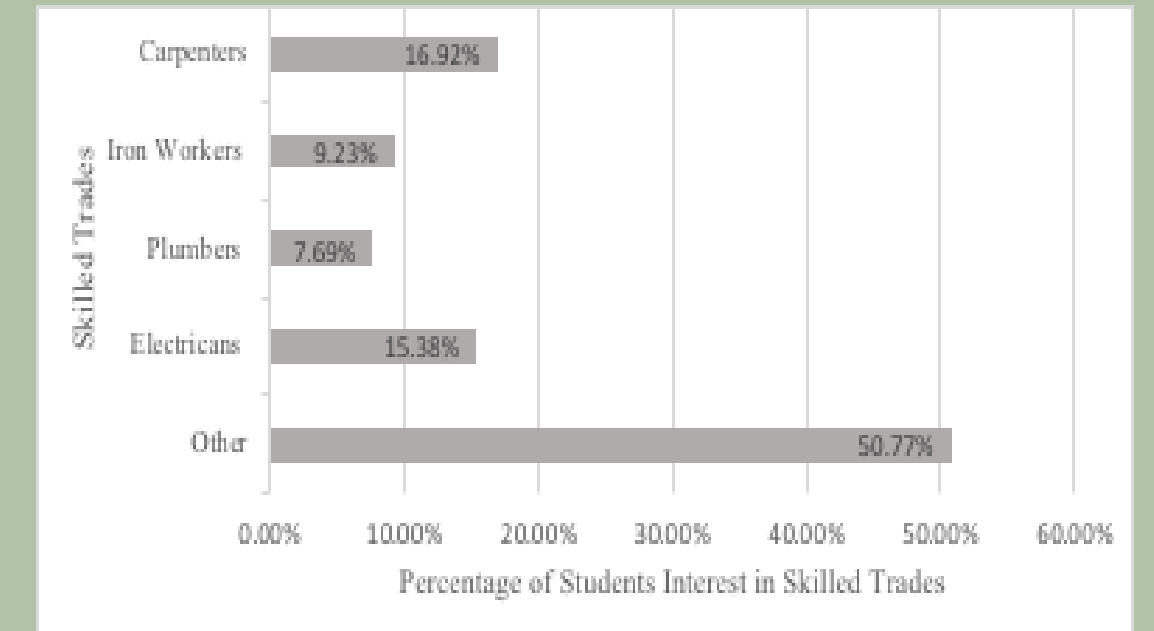
## Significance

The objectives of this research are:

- Understand if students have a general interest in construction.
- Consider what trades the majority of students are interested in.
- Give suggestions to high schools/local construction firms to help expose students to the industry.

The curriculum that incorporated skilled trades has vanished from many high schools, and more students are encouraged to attend college instead of pursuing trades. People view construction labor positions as jobs instead of careers. The construction industry is facing a substantial labor shortage amongst skilled laborers throughout the whole industry. Not enough people know how beneficial a career in the construction labor force can be. If more people knew about these career opportunities, they might have a greater interest in pursuing a career as a skilled tradesperson. To comprehend students' understanding of the construction industry and examine where we can expose students to construction opportunities, a survey was conducted amongst high school students. The survey approach gauged the student's basic knowledge of the industry. It helped specify areas where institutions can better support their students to provide them with career opportunities within marginalized communities and first-generation students not pursuing higher education. This research allowed for a collective understanding of students' basic knowledge and presented potential approaches or programs to reintroduced into curriculums. This paper presents data analysis and suggests how the information gathered could create solutions/programs to ameliorate the workforce shortage to combat the industry's future demand.

**Key Words:** Skilled Trade, Central Coast, Education, Labor Shortage, Career Paths



## Results

The data collected was a collection of responses from students attending Pioneer Valley High School in Santa Maria, California. Keeping surveys anonymous, the survey gathered a total of 55 respondents.

- 26 of 55 were Seniors, approximately 47.3%
- Of the 55 respondents, there were 34 females (61.8%), 19 males (34.6%)
- 13 of 55 students (23.64%) knew someone who is in a trade's profession.
- 3 of the 55 students (5.46%) planned to pursue a career in the construction industry
- 42 out of 54 respondents (77.78%), interested in industry involvement

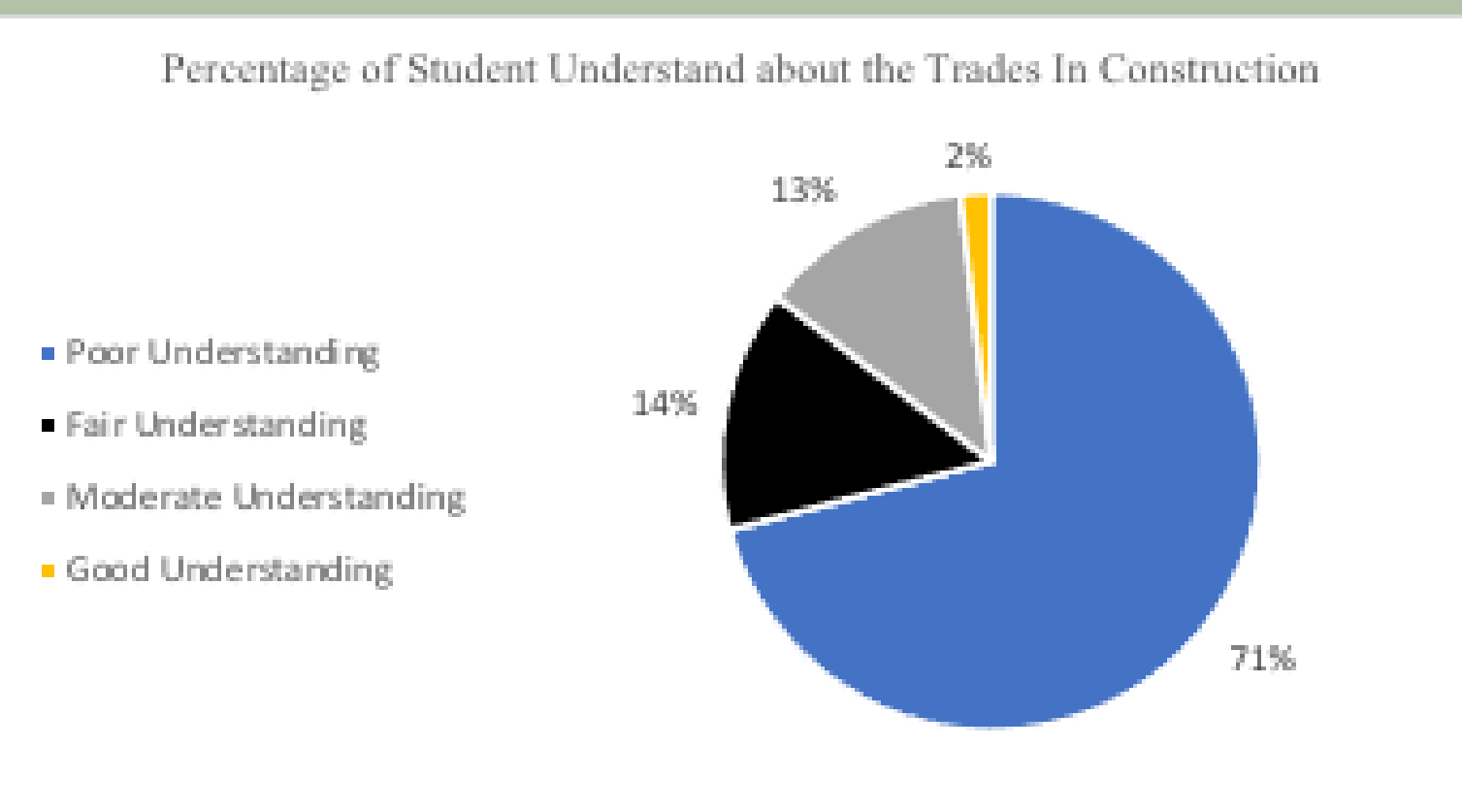
## Impact

The construction industry is facing a substantial labor shortage amongst skilled laborers throughout the whole industry.

This research allowed for a collective understanding of students' basic knowledge and presented potential approaches or programs to reintroduced into curriculums. This paper also presents data analysis and suggests how the information gathered could create solutions/programs to ameliorate the workforce shortage to combat the industry's future demand.

If we don't take concern:

- Inflated Schedules
- Higher Costs
- Poor Quality
- Growth Deficit
- Limited Deliverables
- Lowered Skilled Tradespeople



## Methodology

Most of the data collected for this survey is quantitative and serves to understand better whether exposing students to the construction industry through elective courses/extracurricular programs would increase their likelihood of joining a skilled trade. A qualitative question was incorporated at the end of the survey, which asks about getting hands-on experience in the construction industry and how they would like it implemented. The survey was virtually given through a Microsoft Form to due to circumstances of COVID-19 to students at Pioneer Valley High School.

## Conclusion/Recommendations

With the data presented through this survey, the common conclusion is that there is little to no exposure of the construction industry in this high school, thus lessening students' opportunities to enter skilled trades.

Recommendations:

- Target students at younger ages
- Implement construction programs/ electives
- Change perspective of construction trades
- Providing scholarships to students pursuing a career in the skilled trades
- Construction industry involvement

