

Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: eileen mcneely [emcneely@hsph.harvard.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2008 11:47 AM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Subject: 135 - NIOSH Healthcare Workers Survey

Dear NIOSH researchers,

I commend this effort to look at the health care industry.

Based on five years of effort trying to collect data from 500 acute care facilities we have learned a lot about what type of data is available and who is able to provide it.

We had a multi-method strategy of collecting management surveys, management interviews, employee surveys, union surveys, OSHA logs and workers' compensation records. In addition, we collected organizational and staffing information from the American Hospital Association. Each of these methods had pluses and minuses. The most insight was gained came from the quality of data available.

We are happy to discuss the learnings from this vast canvassing effort as well as the areas of most need going forward in our opinion.

My caution to NIOSH is to avoid a substance-by substance or exposure- by-exposure approach. The organization of health care facilities is so fragmented that collecting this knowledge from any one or two individuals is impossible.

This realization speaks to our greatest learning from our undertaking---that OH&S systems are not integrated, comprehensive, effectual, or even understood. In addition, the focus seems to be on treatment versus prevention.

I am happy to discuss these results with you further.

Best regards,
Eileen

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