Total Worker Health® Program

May 2016

What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Total Worker Health® (TWH) Program focuses on advancing the safety, health, and well-being of workers by increasing the number of work environments that adopt evidence-based TWH approaches. The program does this with the help of partners in industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia.

What do we do?

Effectively integrate protection from work-related safety and health hazards with promotion of injury and illness prevention efforts to advance worker well-being through the following:

- Coordinate and fund etiologic, surveillance, and intervention research that builds the evidence base for TWH policies, programs, and practices.
- Increase the awareness and adoption of effective TWH policies, programs, and practices in workplaces across the country.
- Create guidance for TWH policies that provide a roadmap for adopting TWH principles in the workplace.
- Train safety and health professionals and building the TWH field to support the development, growth, and maintenance of policies, programs, and practices.

What have we accomplished?

- Convened a National Institutes of Health-sponsored Pathways to Prevention Workshop to evaluate the current state of knowledge on integrated approaches to worker safety, health, and well-being and plot the direction for future research.
- Received a registered mark for Total Worker Health by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.
- Reached over 10,000 workplace safety and health professionals who participated in TWH training events via workshops, meetings, webinars, consultations, and other forums.
- Launched the NIOSH National Center for Productive Aging and Work to bring together expertise on aging and work with partners to develop resources for designing workplaces that meet the needs of an aging workforce.
- Hosted the 1st International Symposium on Total Worker Health convening nearly 300 national and international experts and sharing latest research findings.
- Issued a new Funding Opportunity Announcement for the NIOSH Centers of Excellence for TWH, launching five additional years for funding for extramural multidisciplinary research, planning and evaluation, and outreach and education activities.

What’s next?

- Host a TWH Research Methodology Workshop to review existing methodologies and explore new ones that will establish recommendations to soundly design and measure outcomes of TWH studies.
- Release the National TWH Agenda to highlight priority research, practice, policy, and capacity-building goals.
- Publish revised version of the NIOSH “Essential Elements of Effective Workplace Health Programs and Policies for Improving Worker Health and Well-Being,” updated to include the latest research findings. This document will serve as the core of practice-based guidance for implementing TWH.
- Host the 6th Annual National Expert Colloquium where professionals from across the country share current research and practice issues, opportunities, and challenges related to the TWH approach.
- Publish and disseminate a bibliography of evidence-based TWH literature and promising practices guidance.

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