

What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Small Business Assistance Program works with partners in industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia. While the definition of small business is a work in progress, most consider them to typically have fewer than fifty employees. The program focuses on these areas:

- Conducting research to better prevent injuries, illnesses, and deaths in small businesses.
- Increasing awareness and use of effective interventions for small businesses.

What do we do?

- Research the work environment in small businesses and the barriers to preventing workplace illness, injury, and death.
- Research the role of intermediaries (such as insurance companies, trade associations, and chambers of commerce) and the best way to partner with them to connect with small businesses.
- Conduct outreach by giving presentations to small business groups.
- Foster international collaborations with other small business safety and health leaders through large scientific conferences and informal networking.
- Collaborate and provide support (such as translation or outreach) to other NIOSH programs and outside partners that do research that may be helpful to small businesses.

What have we accomplished?

- Updated the “Small Business Resource Guide,” a directory of useful online resources hosted on the NIOSH website.
- Developed a report, “Overlapping Vulnerabilities: The Occupational Health and Safety of Young Immigrant Workers in Small Construction Firms,” in partnership with American Society of Safety Engineers.
- Inspired by the “Total Worker Health for Small Business” project, Kentucky launched a Total Worker Health® program. Kentucky’s program will include a focus on helping small businesses adopt programs, policies, and practices that integrate protection from work-related safety and health hazards with promotion of injury and illness prevention efforts to advance worker well-being.
- Published two articles in peer-reviewed, scientific journals on these subjects:
 - Using case studies to apply a model for delivering occupational safety and health to smaller businesses.
 - Better defining “small business” as a research construct (such as number of workers, business age, structure). A more consistent definition will improve research efforts in occupational safety and health.
- Accepted leadership in the development and organization of the international Understanding Small Enterprises (USE) Conference to be held in 2017.

What’s next?

- Develop the USE 2017 conference website and promote the conference.
- Present preliminary Total Worker Health® for Small Business Project findings at an international conference.
- Improve the NIOSH Small Business website and increase site views to 10,000 in 2016 by adding industry sector-specific content.
- Disseminate “A Small Business Owner’s Guide to Protecting the Workforce involved with Nanomaterial Production.”
- Share easy-to-adopt online safety tips with small construction companies.
- Complete two articles (one on small construction business intervention needs; one on Total Worker Health® for small business) that will be published in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

At-A-Glance

The Small Business Assistance Program seeks to reduce occupational illnesses, injuries, and deaths in smaller businesses. This is done through research, outreach, and prevention activities. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Rates of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses in U.S. establishments with 11–49 workers



2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 → 2018

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

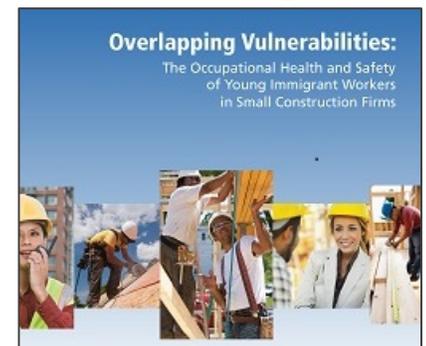
Small Business Assistance web reach: Total site views



2013 2014 2015 → 2018

Source: NIOSH program records

Publication Spotlight:



Joint publication between NIOSH and the American Society of Safety Engineers