NIOSH Wholesale and Retail Trade Program

May 2016

What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Wholesale and Retail Trade (WRT) Program works with partners in industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia. The program focuses on these areas among wholesale and retail trade workers:

- Reducing musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs)
- Reducing workplace violence
- Preventing injuries from slips, trips and falls
- Reducing motor vehicle-related injuries

What do we do?

- Use national surveillance sources to identify risk factors responsible for days away from work related to our four priority areas.
- Establish partnerships with safety and health professionals, trade and labor organizations, businesses and academic institutions to do research to better understand those risk factors and develop interventions.
- Evaluate the effectiveness and feasibility of engineering controls and prevention methods to reduce injuries in priority areas.

- Create evidence-based guidance documents, tools, and other resources to help employers and workers prevent injuries in our four priority areas.
- Partner with trade associations to distribute NIOSH guidance documents, tools, and other resources to employers, who use the information to take steps to prevent worker injuries.

What have we accomplished?

- Published "Ergonomic Solutions for Retailers: Preventing MSDs." The document was identified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and seven safety publications as an important resource for preventing MSDs in high-risk food and beverage retail sectors.
- Published journal article, "Workplace Hazards and Prevention Options" which reported that "employer commitment" is needed to ensure a safe workplace. This theme was later endorsed by the Loss Prevention Foundation membership.
- Presented the NIOSH video "Violence on the Job" to approximately 90 major retailers at a WRT meeting. Interest in NIOSH and its re

search led to a feature article, "NIOSH: The Science of Safety," published by the Loss Prevention Foundation's Insider magazine.
- Launched a falls prevention campaign with the Food Market Institute. Participating food retailers received "Simple Solutions: Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls in Wholesale and Retail Trade Establishments." This promotional piece provided targeted prevention information to the sub-sector with the highest rates of slips, trips and falls.
- Published 4 issues of quarterly news bulletin, each featuring 3-4 ideas about prevention, distributed via WRT business associations to their members to keep them engaged in the NIOSH WRT program.
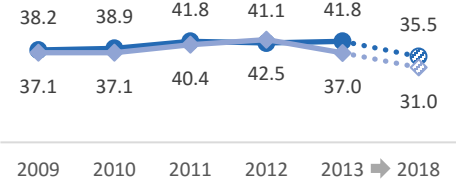
What's next?

- Publish "New Retail Workers: Safety and Health at Work", a document to educate new retail workers about risk factors for MSDs, falls, and violence in retail stores.
- Publish "Ergonomic Best Practices for Product Packaging in Small Businesses," a document for employers and employees who

experience frequent MSDs related to packaging goods.
- Launch project on strategies to prevent motor vehicle injuries among WRT workers using Ohio Workers' Compensation claims data. Collaboration with NIOSH Center for Workers' Compensation Studies and Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation.
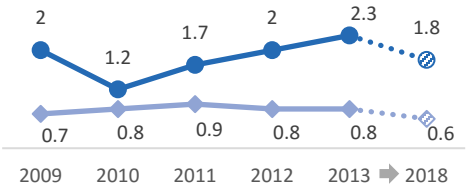
At-A-Glance

The Wholesale and Retail Trade Program provides leadership to prevent diseases, injuries and fatalities in wholesale and retail trade workers. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Rate of musculoskeletal disorders per 10,000 workers in ● Retail and ◆ Wholesale sub-sectors
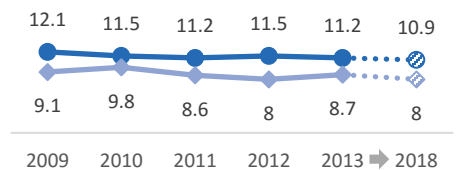

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2018
38.2	38.9	41.8	41.1	41.8	35.5
37.1	37.1	40.4	42.5	37.0	31.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

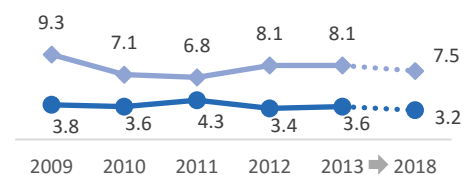**Rate of workplace violence per 10,000 workers in ● Retail and ◆ Wholesale sub-sectors**

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2018
2	1.2	1.7	2	2.3	1.8
0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Rate of falls per 10,000 workers in ● Retail and ◆ Wholesale sub-sectors

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2018
12.1	11.5	11.2	11.5	11.2	10.9
9.1	9.8	8.6	8	8.7	8

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Rate of transportation accidents per 10,000 workers in ● Retail and ◆ Wholesale sub-sectors

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2018
9.3	7.1	6.8	8.1	8.1	7.5
3.8	3.6	4.3	3.4	3.6	3.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics