

What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Center for Workers' Compensation Studies works with partners in industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia. The program focuses on these areas:

- Expanding use of state-level workers' compensation claims data for research and prevention.
- Identifying and communicating interventions most effective at preventing illness and injury.
- Encouraging collaborations between the public health and workers' compensation communities.

What do we do?

- Build the capacity of states to use workers' compensation claims data for prevention purposes through grants, partnerships, and technical assistance.
- Evaluate approaches to preventing illness and injury by working with workers' compensation insurers.
- Distribute information on the most effective prevention approaches for insurers, state work-

ers' compensation bureaus, and state departments of health. This primarily includes interventions to prevent injuries, but it also includes best practices for treatment of illness and injury, and issues related to return-to-work.

- Host webinars and meetings to encourage communication between workers' compensation and public health partners.

What have we accomplished?

- Awarded grants last year to Ohio, Tennessee, and Michigan for building collaborations between state departments of health and workers' compensation bureaus. The agencies within each state will work to use claims data to focus efforts on preventing illness and injury. California and Massachusetts also continued to be funded for two additional years.
- Published two peer-reviewed papers that represent significant advances in workers' compensation research. The [first](#) developed a pioneering computer program to auto-code causation in free text claims and is being actively shared with external stakeholders. The [second](#) demon-

strated that a large state dataset of >1.2 million claims could be linked to external employment data to examine overall claims trends among state-insured private employers.

- Developed an interactive NIOSH [State Workers' Compensation Summary Fact Dashboard](#).
- Led the International Classifications of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) Ergonomic External Causation Coding Workgroup that was successful in developing a new set of ergonomic external causation codes. This was featured in the [October 2016 NIOSH E-News](#).

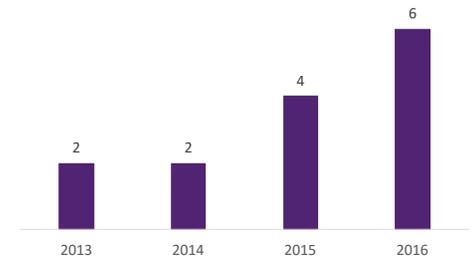
What's next?

- Complete claims analyses for multi-industry causation, temporary services, private ambulance services, traumatic brain injury, hearing loss, and the link of noise level to injury.
- Host a December 2017 workers compensation grantees meeting.
- Form an e-mail listserv to continue outreach to other state bureaus and departments of health to share best practices for data linkage, auto-coding, and data-dashboards.
- Compare the codes used in [insurer](#) and [public health](#) systems used to report injuries as a way to facilitate communications between the public health, insurance, and provider communities about injury tracking and prevention efforts.
- Host at least six webinars in 2017.
- Submit to a peer reviewed journal an interview study with 9 insurers to understand insurer systems to control workplace injury and illness risks.
- Complete a study to standardize portions of industrial hygiene data collection forms to improve the future use of data within insurers and for safety and health research.
- Publish a NIOSH Science Blog on Worker Recovery and Return-to-Work.
- Provide data visualization support to partners by developing dashboards.
- Develop an e-mail listserv of insurers and public health officials willing to share specific project opportunities for research and dissemination.

At-A-Glance

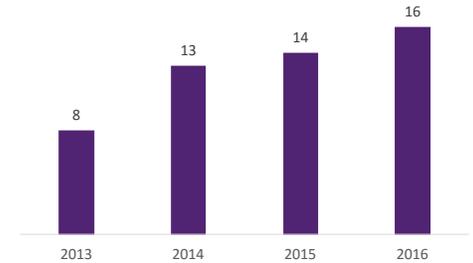
The Center for Workers' Compensation Studies uses workers' compensation data and systems to improve workplace safety and health. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Number of states analyzing multi-industry worker's compensation claims data



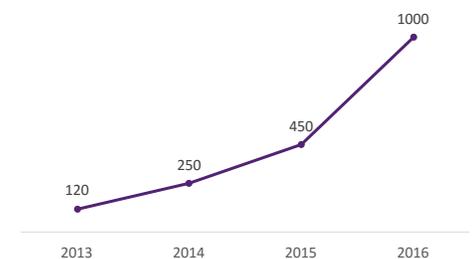
Source: NIOSH program records

Number of NIOSH collaborative evaluations with insurers



Source: NIOSH program records

Number of attendees at the Center's webinars



Source: NIOSH program records

To learn more, visit
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/workercomp/cwcs/>