

## What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Safe•Skilled•Ready Workforce (SSRW) program works with partners in education, industry, labor, trade and professional associations, community organizations, government, and academia to ensure that all individuals, before they join the U.S. workforce or start a new job, have the foundational knowledge and skills needed to benefit from and contribute to safe, healthy, and productive workplaces.

## What do we do?

- Research the foundational knowledge and skills youth, new hires, contingent workers (people who do not expect their jobs to last or who work in temporary jobs), and other vulnerable populations need for workplace safety and health.
- Disseminate research findings to diverse stakeholder groups.
- Integrate foundational workplace safety and health knowledge and skills into programs and initiatives that serve youth, new hires, contingent workers, and other vulnerable populations.
- Conduct research to better understand how organizations adopt, adapt, and integrate foundational workplace safety and health knowledge and skills into their programs and activities.
- Create, maintain, and evaluate foundational workplace safety and health curricula and advise stakeholders on their use.

## What have we accomplished?

- Completed the second year of a study in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools System, the fourth largest school district in the country, on inclusion of foundational workplace safety and health knowledge and skills in 8th grade science classes. To date, NIOSH has trained more than 100 teachers, and collected evaluation data from more than 6,000 students who received instruction using the *Talking Safety* curriculum.
- Completed the first year of a study in the Oklahoma City Public Schools System, the largest district in Oklahoma. This is a pilot project for the implementation of Oklahoma Senate Bill 262, which calls for workplace safety education in all public schools using the *Talking Safety* curriculum.
- Published *Safety Matters*, a one-hour training for young people, co-branded with the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA).
- Published *Staying Safe at Work*, a curriculum for workers with disabilities in partnership with the University of California-Berkeley Labor Occupational Health Program.
- Published *Foundational Workplace Safety and Health Competencies for the Emerging Workforce*, a peer-reviewed journal article that details the development of a theoretical framework of workplace safety and health knowledge and skills known as the NIOSH 8 Core Competencies.
- Trained 200 teachers in the Connecticut Technical High Schools System on the *Talking Safety* curriculum.

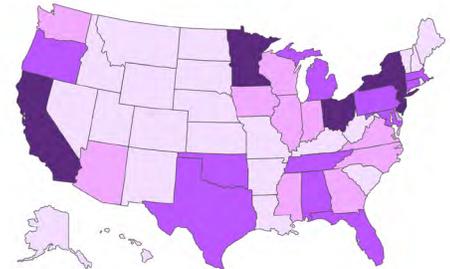
## What's next?

- Update 54 state/territory-specific editions of *Talking Safety* to reflect lessons learned from on-going, evaluation research.
- Complete the study in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, delivering foundational workplace safety and health competencies to more than 10,000 students and leaving a sustainable program that continues teaching 8th graders critical life skills for safe and healthy work.
- Conduct formative research to better understand the foundational workplace safety and health training needs of contingent workers.
- Develop and pilot test foundational workplace safety and health training programs for contingent workers in partnership with staffing companies, trade associations, and workforce development, labor, community-based, and other organizations.
- Publish a Spanish language version of the *Talking Safety* curriculum.
- Integrate the NIOSH 8 Core Competencies into the Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration's Generic Building Blocks Competency Model, a framework used by businesses across the country to delineate the personal, academic, and workplace competencies required to be successful in a given occupation.

## At-A-Glance

The Safe•Skilled•Ready Workforce (SSRW) program aims to equip young, contingent, and other at risk workers with foundational workplace safety and health knowledge and skills to help protect them on the job now and throughout their lives. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Downloads of state-specific versions of NIOSH *Youth@Work—Talking Safety* through 2016



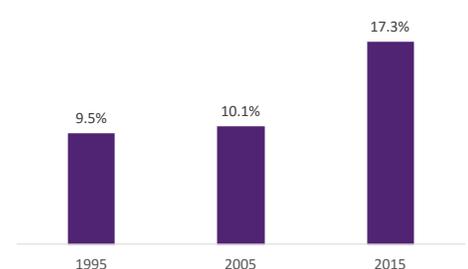
Source: NIOSH program records

Rate of emergency department treated non-fatal injuries (per 100 FTE) for worker ages



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics

Percent employed in contingent work arrangements in the U.S.



Source: Katz, L. F., & Krueger, A. B. (2016). *The rise and nature of alternative work arrangements in the United States, 1995–2015* (No. w22667). National Bureau of Economic Research.

To learn more, visit  
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/Safe-Skilled-Ready/default.html>