NIOSH Surveillance Program

June 2017

What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Surveillance Program works with partners in industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, government agencies, and academia. The program focuses on these areas:

- Expanding awareness, knowledge and use of occupational safety and health surveillance data
- Building capacity for state-based occupational safety and health surveillance
- Integrating occupational safety and health variables into general health surveillance systems

What do we do?

- Increase awareness and promote use of occupational safety and health (OSH) surveillance data tools and resources.
- Share OSH documents produced by states through the Occupational Health Clearinghouse.
- Increase the number of states that include industry and occupation questions in the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).
- Increase states' capacity to conduct case-based surveillance of priority occupational injuries and illnesses.
- Improve the National Industry and Occupational Computerized Coding System (NIOCCS).
- Sponsor OSH questions in national population-based surveys.
- Promote inclusion of OSH variables into standards for electronic health records and CDC surveillance systems.
- Support use of novel sources of surveillance data such as audiometric data, and workers' compensation data.
- Provide new web-based tools and resources.

What have we accomplished?

- Prepared data on 23 Occupational Health Indicators from 27 states for posting on the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists website.
- Sponsored supplemental work-related asthma questions in the 2017 National Health Interview Survey, which will provide needed data to examine progress toward a Healthy People 2020 objective.
- Released first edition of the Worker Health Charts (WHC) which permits users to visualize surveillance date.
- Used the NIOSH Fatalities in Oil and Gas Extraction surveillance tool to identify hazards associated with manually gauging oil field tanks. In response, the American Petroleum Institute published and the Bureau of Land Management adopted a new safety standard allowing alternative methods for tank gauging.
- Published manuscript on injury using data from the Long Haul Truck Drivers Survey cited in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Agency rule on minimum training requirements for entry-level commercial motor vehicle drivers.
- Developed three Knowledge Resources for Electronic Health Record-system clinical decision support (CDS) tools for work and health. Knowledge Resources explain what a tool would do and include rationale and scientific evidence.
- Published three papers reporting that workers seen at emergency departments do not underreport occupational injuries. These results differ from employer-based injury reporting studies.

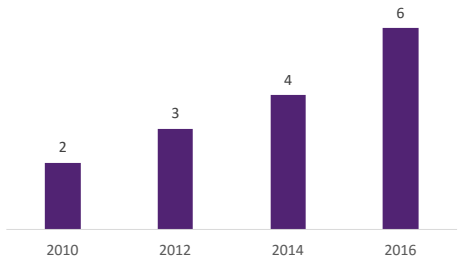
What's next?

- Add new charting features and data to the second edition of the WHC.
- Make online charts available for three years (2013 - 2015) of BRFSS industry and occupation data.
- Release NIOCCS v3 to improve coding rates.
- Publish findings of the prevalence of cardiovascular outcomes and hearing difficulty as they relate to occupational noise exposure; and, findings of the causes and trends of occupational fatalities to youth less than 18 years of age in the United States.
- Publish a model of the Occupational Data for Health data elements as a reference for health IT in the electronic health record.
- Evaluate usefulness of data from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and the Truven Health MarketScan Commercial Claims and Encounters Database for surveillance of occupational respiratory disease in the working population.

At-A-Glance

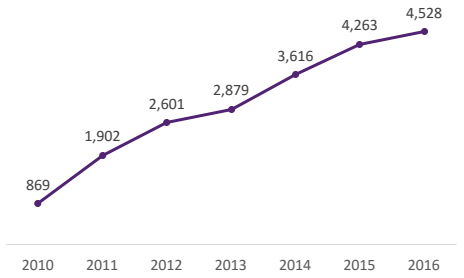
The Surveillance Program improves worker safety and health by identifying and tracking workplace injuries, illnesses, hazards, deaths and exposures in the United States. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Number of NIOSH surveillance systems with publicly searchable data



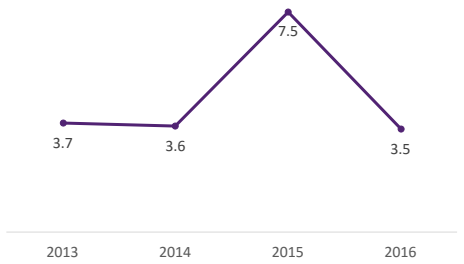
Source: NIOSH Program Records

Cumulative number of documents in the Occupational Health Clearinghouse



Source: NIOSH Program Records

Number of records submitted to NIOSH Industry and Occupational Computerized Coding System (NIOCCS) in millions



Source: NIOSH Program Records

To learn more, visit https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/surveillance/default.html

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DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2017-164