

What are our priorities?

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

What do we do?

- Investigate the foundational knowledge and skills young and 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 young and contingent workers and other vulnerable populations.
- Conduct research to better understand how organizations adopt, adapt, and integrate workplace safety and health knowledge and skills into their programs and activities.
- Create, maintain, and evaluate workplace safety and health curricula, including *Youth@Work—Talking Safety*, and advise stakeholders on their use.

What have we accomplished?

- Completed the third 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 9,000 students who received instruction using the *Talking Safety* curriculum.
- Completed the second year of a randomized controlled trial in the Oklahoma City Public Schools System, the largest district in Oklahoma. This project will provide assessment data needed to support the state-wide implementation of workplace safety and health education in all public schools using *Talking Safety*, as specified in Oklahoma Senate Bill 262.
- Partnered with the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to include essential workplace safety and health knowledge and skills into the ETA's Building Block Competency Model used nationwide by workforce development programs.
- Facilitated efforts by the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)—with 1.7 million members in more than 3,000 local affiliates nationwide—to promote occupational safety and health education. The AFT recently passed a resolution to protect next-gen workers, calling for the expansion of the NIOSH *Talking Safety* program to K-12 local schools/districts.
- Interviewed representatives from 15 staffing companies and conducted focus groups with 31 temporary workers on foundational workplace safety and health training needs among temporary workers.
- Published Spanish language editions of the *Talking Safety* curriculum for California, Florida, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, and Texas.

What's next?

- Partner with the OSHA Training Institute to create OSHA-10/*Talking Safety* courses, with the potential to reach 10 million high school students in career technical education classes.
- Conduct formative research on the foundational workplace safety and health training needs within the temporary staffing industry and the workforce development sector.
- Implement a process to update all 54 state and territory editions of *Talking Safety* to reflect lessons learned from on-going evaluation research and provide crosswalks with common health and educational standards used by school districts.
- Complete the Miami-Dade County Public Schools study, delivering essential 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.
- Publish results of research related to the integration of occupational safety and health skills into middle school and high school programs.

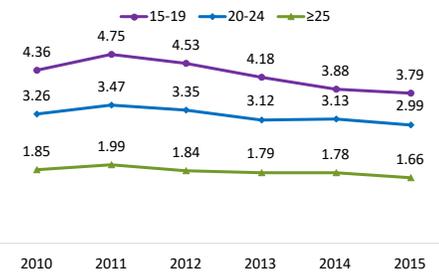
The Safe • Skilled • Ready Workforce (SSRW) program aims to equip young, contingent, and other at-risk workers with foundational workplace safety and health knowledge and skills to help protect them on the job now and throughout their lives. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Downloads of state-specific versions of NIOSH Youth@Work—Talking Safety through 2017



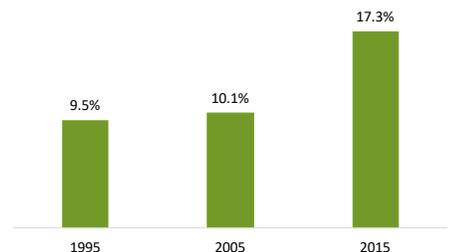
Source: NIOSH program records

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



Source: NIOSH NEISS Work-RISQS

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>

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