

### What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Small Business Assistance Program works with partners in industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia. While the definition of small business is a work in progress, most consider them to have fewer than fifty employees. The program focuses on these areas:

- Conducting research to better prevent injuries, illnesses, and deaths in small businesses.
- Increasing awareness and use of effective interventions by small businesses.

### What do we do?

- Investigate the work environment in small businesses and the barriers to preventing workplace illness, injury, and death.
- Explore how intermediaries can be used to connect with small businesses (such as insurance companies, trade associations, and chambers of commerce) and the best way to partner with them.
- Conduct outreach by giving occupational safety and health presentations to small businesses.
- Foster international collaborations with other small business safety and health leaders through scientific conferences and informal networking.
- Collaborate and provide support (such as translation or outreach) to other NIOSH programs and outside partners that conduct research that may be helpful when providing OSH information to small businesses.

### What have we accomplished?

- Co-hosted the first-ever small business occupational safety and health (OSH) conference in the U.S., the Understanding Small Enterprises (USE) Conference, with the Center for Health, Work & Environment at the Colorado School of Public Health.
- Published 5 peer-reviewed journal articles on small business OSH issues, including access to training, workforce diversity, OSH information needs, and employers' readiness to change OSH programs.
- Explored how employers find and act on safety and health information during SBA program interactions with more than 250 small employers and intermediaries at national and regional events.
- Collaborated with two Total Worker Health® Centers of Excellence with regional small business emphasis programs to expand efforts to reach small employers with OSH assistance through intermediaries – the Healthier Workforce Center at the University of Iowa School of Public Health, and the Center for Health, Work & Environment at the Colorado School of Public Health.

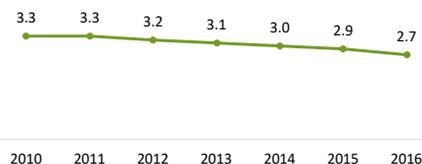
### What's next?

- Test methods for effectiveness of disseminating safety apps among small businesses in construction.
- Increase utility of the NIOSH Small Business website in 2018 by adding more industry sector-specific content.
- Publish proceedings of the 2017 Understanding Small Enterprises Conference.
- Publish peer-reviewed scientific journal articles on:
  - Small construction business intervention needs;
  - Total Worker Health® for small business; and
  - Updated surveillance of small business injury and illness burden
- Contribute to planning of the 2019 Understanding Small Enterprises Conference in Campinas, Brazil.
- Present findings on Total Worker Health® in small business, intervention readiness, and implementation of lean product development methodology; and foster collaborations at national meetings.

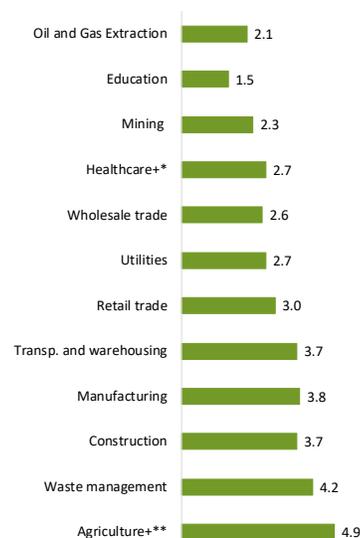
The Small Business Assistance Program seeks to reduce occupational illnesses, injuries, and deaths in smaller businesses. This is done through research, outreach, and prevention activities. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

#### Rates of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses in small businesses (U.S. establishments with 11–49 workers) by year and by industry

Rates by year per 100 full-time workers



#### Rates by industry (2016) per 100 full-time workers



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
 \*Healthcare and social assistance  
 \*\*Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting

#### Spotlight: USE Conference Highlights video



Source: <https://bit.ly/2JzSw5y>

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<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/sba/>