

What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Wholesale and Retail Trade (WRT) Program works with partners in industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia. The program focuses on these areas among wholesale and retail trade workers:

- Reducing injuries and illnesses from overexertion and adverse bodily reactions especially among aging workers and those who are exposed to the safety risks from emerging technologies
- Preventing injuries from slips, trips and falls
- Reducing motor vehicle-related injuries

What do we do?

- Use national surveillance sources to identify risk factors responsible for days away from work related to our three priority areas.
- Establish partnerships with safety and health professionals, trade and labor organizations, businesses and academic institutions to do research to better understand those risk factors and develop interventions.
- Conduct research on Healthy Work Design to make recommendations on the best ways to manage and structure work to prevent musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs).
- Evaluate the effectiveness and feasibility of engineering controls and prevention methods to reduce injuries in priority areas. Create evidence-based guidance documents, tools, and other resources to help WRT employers and workers prevent injuries.
- Collaborate with trade associations to distribute NIOSH research findings and other resources to WRT employers and their employees.

What have we accomplished?

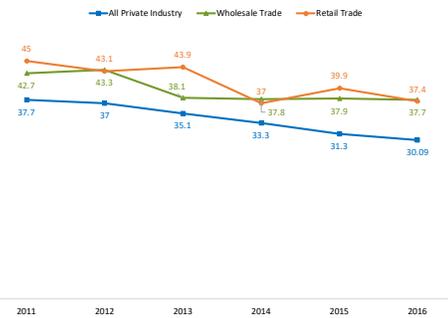
- Presented WRT Program poster at the Work, Stress and Health Conference, June 7-10, 2017, Minneapolis, to increase awareness about Healthy Work Design programs.
- Participated in and exhibited WRT products at the October 25-27, 2017, Understanding Small Enterprises Conference, Denver, Colorado, designed to educate academics/researchers on the need for investigations into the WRT small businesses that have high rates of injury/illnesses.
- Published Jun 28, 2017 NIOSH Science Blog "[Ladder Safety: Take the Right Steps towards Safety](#)" on avoiding injuries from falls in WRT businesses.
- Published November 22, 2017 NIOSH Science Blog "[Retail Worker Safety and Health during the Holidays](#)" on the health & safety risks to WRT employees from large crowds of holiday shoppers and long work hours.
- Collaborated with Safe-Skilled-Ready Workforce Health at Work to incorporate the NIOSH eight core competencies into the NIOSH document ESHR-RE.

What's next?

- Prepare a journal article that provides new surveillance data on the "State of the WRT Sector" from 2006 through 2016.
- Develop a prototype e-learning component to support training based on NIOSH's ESHR-RE product.
- Update [Young Retail Worker web page](#) with new content from the ESHR-RE.
- Develop three focused prevention briefs to target each of the WRT sub sectors that pose the greatest risk to their employees.
- Co-author with Small Business Outreach Program a document featuring WRT small businesses that have high rates of injuries/illnesses.
- Collaborate with NIOSH's National Center for Productive Aging and Work on a document that describes those WRT businesses with high percentages of older workers.
- Publish the "Retail Safety and Health Resource for Employers" to educate employers and employees about risk factors and solutions for MSDs, falls, and violence occurring in retail stores.

The Wholesale and Retail Trade Program provides leadership to prevent diseases, injuries and fatalities in wholesale and retail trade workers. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Overexertion and bodily reactions-injury incidence rates for the wholesale, retail sectors, and private industry*



Falls-injury incidence rates for the wholesale, retail sectors, and private industry*



Transportation-injury incidence rates for the wholesale, retail sectors, and private industry*



*Incidence rates for nonfatal injury/illness per 10,000 full-time equivalent workers. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2011 – 2016, Table R8

To learn more, visit
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/wrt/>

<https://doi.org/10.26616/NIOSH PUB2018167>
DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2018-167

