

## At-A-Glance

The Occupational Health Equity Program seeks to promote health equity in disease incidence, injury, mental illness, and morbidity and mortality that are closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

### What are our priorities?

Not all workers have the same risk of experiencing a work-related health problem, even when they have the same job. Factors that place some workers at greater risk than others include social dynamics such as race, ethnicity, place of birth, age, class, and gender; economic trends such as the growth of the temporary workforce; and organizational factors such as business size. Groups with one or more of these characteristics are termed 'priority populations'; such groups may need additional or different tools, strategies and resources to promote occupational safety and health. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Occupational Health Equity Program seeks to improve occupational health and safety in specific, higher-risk populations with the help of partners in industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia. The program focuses on these areas:

- Decreasing injury and illness in industries where priority populations frequently work
- Decreasing fatal occupational injuries and illnesses in priority populations

### What do we do?

- Improve surveillance to better capture differences in the number and type of injuries, illnesses and fatalities across priority populations.
- Use surveillance to better understand how economic costs like days away from work and healthcare expenses vary across priority populations.
- Expand intramural and extramural collaborations with researchers studying injuries and chronic diseases (such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, reproductive disease, and cancer) by including occupational health questions in ongoing studies.
- Document occupational health inequities for groups of workers, and research the causes of those disparities.
- Partner with state and federal agencies interested in worker safety and health, including city and state health departments and other CDC programs, to share information and helpful tools to impact more workers.

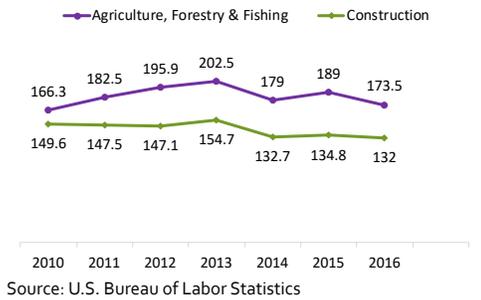
### What have we accomplished?

- **Found** that U.S. female crop workers (17.1%) were twice as likely as their male counterparts (8.3%) to experience elevated depressive symptoms. Lack of social support and job insecurity contributed to these elevated rates.
- **Published study showing** that complex and engaging jobs protect late-life cognitive functioning. The effect was greater for white men than for black men, or for women of either race.
- Worked with **CDC's Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support** Public Health Law Program to identify tribal laws related to occupational safety and health areas and develop a document for tribes and tribal-serving organizations: **Selected Tribal Laws Related to Occupational Safety and Health**.
- **Found** that alternative-sized Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) products are rarely promoted in manufacturers' marketing materials, which seldom included size charts, and the models used to display PPE were overwhelmingly white males of average size.
- Analyzed the Mexican governments' current data collection systems and provided recommendations on how to revise the systems to improve occupational health surveillance data for immigrant workers.

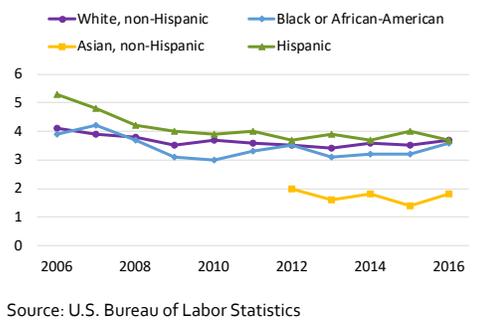
### What's next?

- Work with the Department of Labor to add mental health questions to the National Agricultural Worker Survey to measure the national prevalence of anxiety in farmworkers.
- Finalize winch guarding solutions designed to reduce entanglement injuries in collaboration with ethnically diverse workers fishing in the US Southern Shrimp fleet.
- Examine if occupational characteristics explain how fast telomeres (i.e., protective caps of chromosomes, a marker of cell-level aging) shorten, and if there are racial differences in the occupation-telomere relationship.
- Create a NIOSH topic web page for American Indian and Alaska Native worker safety and health.
- Engage manufacturers and safety professionals to better promote alternative-sized PPE.
- Collaborate with external stakeholders to convene a national symposia on Latino Worker Safety.

### Days away from work injury and illness rate in Sectors (per 10,000 workers)



### Rate of fatal occupational injury by race/ethnicity (per 100,000 workers)



### Publication Spotlight:

