

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. Small businesses typically are defined as those with fewer than 50 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 such as insurance companies, trade associations, and chambers of commerce can be used to connect with small businesses and the best way to partner with them.
- Present on occupational safety and health issues to small businesses.
- Foster collaborations with international small business safety and health leaders through scientific conferences and informal networking.
- Collaborate and provide support to other NIOSH programs and outside partners researching occupational safety and health issues that may affect small businesses.

What have we accomplished?

- Published the cobranded *Understanding Small Enterprises: Proceedings from the 2017 Conference*, with the Colorado School of Public Health. An overview of the conference was also published in a special journal issue of *Annals of Work Exposures and Health*.
- Published peer-reviewed scientific journal articles on:
 - Small construction business interventions, which suggests ways of classifying small business readiness for OSH change/improvement; and
 - Small business OSH messaging strategies, which provides a framework for considering factors such as age of business, size, and industry in developing OSH messages.
- Presented on *Total Worker Health*® approaches in Small Businesses to the Kentucky Occupational and Environmental Medicine Association.
- Collaborated with American Society of Safety Professionals and Alianza Americas to design research on fall prevention interventions with small residential construction businesses.

What's next?

- Explore methods for effectiveness of disseminating safety apps among small businesses in construction.
- Publish peer-reviewed scientific journal articles on:
 - *Total Worker Health*® approaches for small business; and
 - Updated surveillance of small business injury and illness burden
- Collaborate with state and federal government agencies to improve services and outreach to small businesses, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Safe + Sound Campaign.
- Contribute to planning of the next international Understanding Small Enterprises Conference.
- Present findings on *Total Worker Health*® in small business and foster collaborations at national meetings.
- Support Small Business Week through a new social media campaign focused on OSH.

At-A-Glance

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.

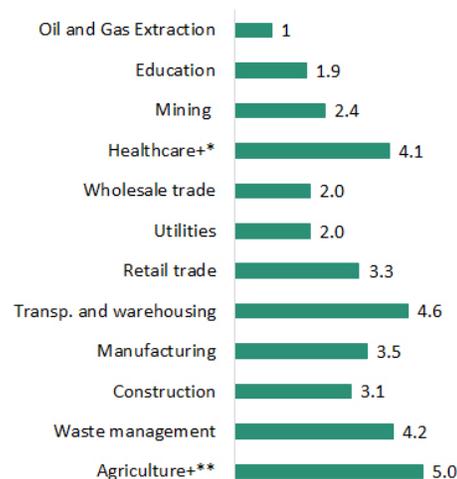
Rates of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses in small businesses (U.S. establishments with 11–49 workers) by year and by industry

Rates by year per 100 full-time workers



2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017

Rates of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses in small businesses (U.S. establishments with 11-49 workers) by industry (2017) per 100 full-time workers



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

*Healthcare and social assistance

**Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting

Spotlight:

[Understanding Small Enterprises: Proceedings from the 2017 Conference](#)



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