

At-A-Glance

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.

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 stakeholders (in labor, government, academia, education, and community 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.

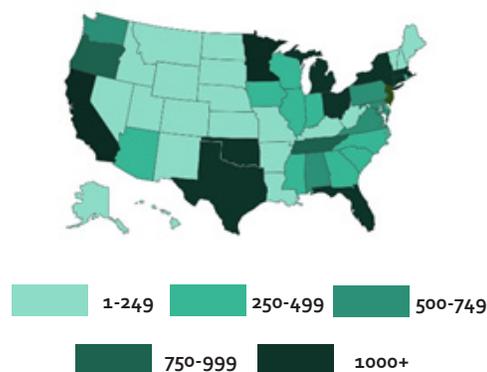
What have we accomplished?

- Completed the third year of a randomized controlled trial of *Talking Safety* in the Oklahoma City Public Schools System. This project will provide assessment data to support the state-wide implementation of workplace safety and health education in public schools using *Talking Safety*, as specified in Oklahoma Senate Bill 262.
- Published an [article](#) in the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*. Findings from the research suggest constructs from a modified theory of planned behavior may be useful in explaining middle school students' knowledge, attitude, self-efficacy, and behavioral intention toward workplace safety and health.
- Published an [article](#) in *Prevention Science* presenting results from an evaluation of the *Talking Safety* curriculum. Findings demonstrate that the curriculum is effective at positively changing measured outcomes when teachers closely adhered to the lesson plans.
- Conducted 28 interviews with stakeholders in the workforce development sector and 4 focus groups with workforce development program participants to better understand foundational workplace safety and health training needs in the workforce development sector.
- Launched a new [webpage](#) to share research and products, including publications and curricula, with internal and external partners and stakeholders.
- Published *Teaching Talking Safety* on the NIOSH website, a video guide for teachers of the *Talking Safety* curriculum.

What's next?

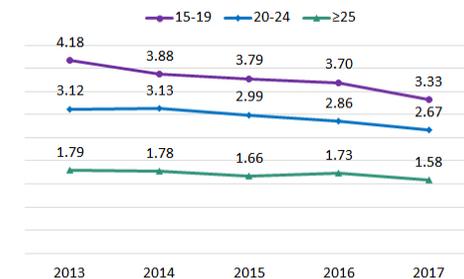
- Partner with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Youth Alliance to evaluate the reach of the national social media campaign for young workers, [#MySafeSummerJob](#), conducted in spring 2019.
- Lead a cross-Institute collaboration to develop an MMWR (Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report) on young worker injury trends in the U.S.
- Partner with the OSHA Training Institute to create two new OSHA 10-hour in-person trainings (construction and general industry) tailored for young workers. These new trainings, which will include the core competencies from the *Talking Safety* curriculum, have the potential to reach 10 million high school students in career technical education classes.
- Utilize formative research findings to develop a new foundational workplace safety and health training program tailored for the workforce development sector.
- Create a new version of *Talking Safety* that reflects lessons learned from on-going evaluation research and to provide crosswalks with common health and educational standards used by school districts.
- Publish in peer-reviewed journals results from ongoing intervention and translation research activities.

Downloads of state-specific editions of NIOSH *Talking Safety* (2019 year-to-date)



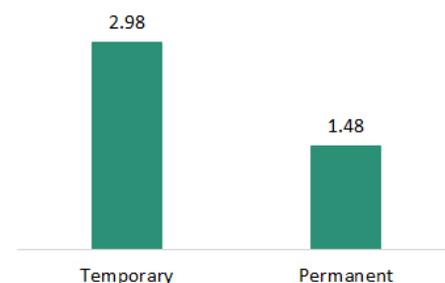
Source: NIOSH program records

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



Source: NIOSH NEISS Work-RISQS

Temporary v Permanent workers' lost day claims rate per 100 FTE, All risk classes (adjusted), 2011-2015, Washington State



Source: Foley M. Factors underlying observed injury rate differences between temporary workers and permanent peers. *Am J Ind Med.* 2017;60:841-851.

To learn more, visit
www.cdc.gov/niosh/Safe-Skilled-Ready

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