

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.

What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Wholesale and Retail Trade (WRT) Program works with partners in other government agencies, 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 safety risks from emerging technologies
- Preventing injuries from slips, trips and falls
- Reducing motor vehicle-related injuries

What do we do?

- Use national surveillance data sources to identify risk factors related to our three priority areas that result in days away from work.
- Establish partnerships with other government agencies, safety and health professionals, trade and labor organizations, businesses and academic institutions to do research and provide guidance to better understand risk factors and develop interventions.
- Conduct research on WRT worker health and well-being 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.

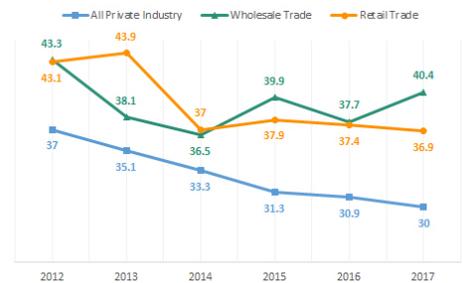
What have we accomplished?

- Updated [Young Retail Worker web page](#) with current information and resources and improved functionality.
- Published NIOSH Workplace Solutions document [Using Total Worker Health® Concepts to Reduce Fatigue among Retail Workers](#).
- Published NIOSH Science Blog [Health for the Holidays: Risks and Recommendations for the Retail Industry](#) on the health and safety risks to WRT workers from stress, fatigue, and work conditions. Collaborated with the NIOSH Healthy Work Design program to improve workers' well-being.

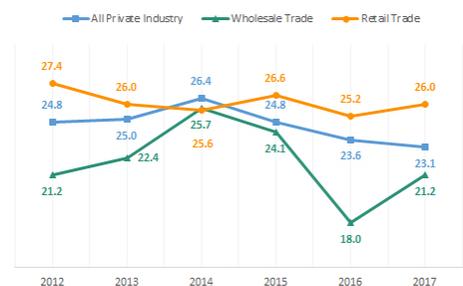
What's next?

- Publish and present updated WRT surveillance data on injuries, illnesses, fatalities and economic implications for 2006 – 2016 in peer-reviewed journals and conferences.
- Develop social media/outreach campaigns for the surveillance data (above). Promote the updated data/materials with focus on academia, scientists, researchers, OSH professionals, and others.
- Translate the updated surveillance article into materials that can be used by employers and workers, using plain language standards.
- Partner with safety/risk officials, labor unions, and other intermediaries in the WRT industry to promote NIOSH products.
- Develop communication products (such as science blogs, trade journal articles) about high priority WRT hazards (e.g., overexertion, falls, motor vehicle crashes, and work organization).
- Finalize the *Retail Safety and Health Resource* aimed to provide information for employers about workplace safety, health and well-being factors. This product includes NIOSH recommendations to reduce retail injuries (i.e., MSDs, falls, and roadway motor vehicle-related incidents).
- Collaborate with NIOSH Small Business Assistance program. Design and promote workplace safety and health materials that inform employers, workers, WRT community what hazards are in the industry, how to recognize them, and what to do to reduce injury-rates.

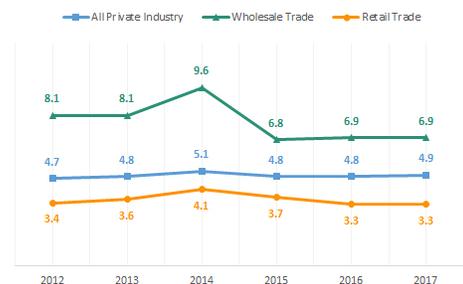
Overexertion and bodily reactions-injury incidence rates for the wholesale, retail sectors, and private industry*



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, 2012 – 2017, Table R8

To learn more, visit
www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/wrt

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