

## Annual Report of Major Outputs and Outcomes

Fundamental State-Based Occupational Safety & Health (OH) Surveillance Program

Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH)

Project Period: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Grant Number: 1U60OH010908-04

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### Major Outputs:

- Worksite Wellness Survey

The OH Surveillance Program has completed data collection for the 2016-2017 Georgia Worksite Wellness Survey. This was a statewide mixed-mode sample survey (mail, online, fax) of about 3,000 medium sized businesses (100-249 employees), stratified by nine major industry groups. A total of 829 Georgia employers participated in the survey, producing a minimum response rate of about 28% (not adjusted for surveys returned undeliverable, refusals, and known ineligible). Although this is lower than our desired response rate of 60%, it is higher than the typical response rate of 19% for this type of survey. A total of 356 employers who completed the survey expressed interest in receiving materials or participating in educational opportunities for worksite wellness, such as recognizing the signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke, diabetes educational materials, implementing a tobacco-free policy, falls prevention educational materials, etc. *Intermediate Outcome:* The OH Surveillance Program met with staff of the Georgia Working on Health Initiative and the state Tobacco Use Prevention Program to discuss follow-up with these employers. To date, the Tobacco Use Prevention Program has reached out to 114 employers via phone and email and provided them with information about establishing a model tobacco-free workplace policy and educational materials on cessation.

- Elevated Adult Blood Lead Activities

The Georgia DPH Environmental Health Section has provided the OH Surveillance Program with detailed data that was used to create a data summary describing the burden of elevated blood lead levels among residents age 16 years and older in Georgia during 2010-2015. The summary has been published and posted on DPH website. In addition, the OH Surveillance Program was granted access the state's Blood Lead Surveillance System's electronic database, which contains all blood lead lab reports reported electronically to the state. The program was also given electronic access to the Georgia Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program's Inspection/Risk Assessment Reports. Information for these reports are collected during home inspections of children with elevated blood lead levels. The reports contain a module which assesses the work environment and hobbies of the parents and other adults in the home. This information may be useful in identifying adults at risk for lead exposures and provide another avenue to disseminate lead exposure educational materials to adults. *Intermediate Outcome:* Data

from the lead data summary and limitations of the blood lead lab reports were shared with the DPH Director of Health Protection, DPH Environmental Health, GA Tech Consultation Program, and a key battery manufacturing industry stakeholder. The data showed the need to refer employers of workers with elevated blood lead to the OSHA Consultation Program and identified areas within the state where educational materials should be targeted and disseminated. A new alliance agreement between DPH, GA Tech Consultation Program, and Region IV OSHA is being drafted.

### **Conferences and Presentations:**

- Research Abstract Accepted for Poster Presentation at National Cancer Conference

The OH epidemiologist in collaboration with the Georgia Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program epidemiologist, submitted an abstract entitled “Occupation as Predictor of Cancer Screenings among Georgia Workers, 2012-2015,” which uses data from the Georgia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) industry/occupation module. The study examines how breast, cervical, and colorectal screening behavior relates to employment and occupation.

*Potential Outcome:* The results from this analysis can be used by Georgia Cancer Prevention Programs to target their evidenced based interventions by occupation.

- Guest Lecturer Emory University Rollins School of Public Health

The OH Epidemiologist was invited for the second time to participate as a guest lecturer in Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health Environmental and Occupational Health Practices course. The graduate students learned about OH Surveillance in Georgia, including the aims of the program, how data are used, and how data can be accessed and used for research.

*Intermediate Outcome:* Participating as a lecturer provides visibility for the OH Surveillance program, which has resulted in opportunities to collaborate on research projects, serve as a practicum or internship site for students, and participate on the school’s external advisory panel for occupational/environmental epidemiology training.

### **OH Data Integration:**

- Inclusion of Industry/Occupation and Work-Relatedness in Non-Traditional Data Sources

Two revised questions on occupational injury were added to the 2017 GA BRFSS. These questions were added based on recommendations from the BRFSS Industry/Occupation Workgroup to participate in a potential multi-state project. In addition, Georgia has added 4 new work-related questions to the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), including a question on work-related injuries. *Potential Outcome:* The addition of work-related questions into the BRFSS and YRBS will allow new and unique analyses to be conducted in the state and help bring attention to employment and occupation as being determinants of health and risk behaviors.

## **OH Capacity Development:**

- OH Surveillance Program Serves as Practicum/Internship Site for MPH Students

The OH Surveillance Program served as a practicum site for its second Georgia Southern University MPH epidemiology student during Spring semester 2017. The student completed her practicum with a project focused on adult asthma and occupation, using data from the Georgia BRFSS industry/occupation module. The student presented her analyses to staff of the chronic disease epidemiology section and drafted a data summary that will be posted on the DPH website. The student also assisted the OH epidemiologist with data collection for the worksite wellness survey. In addition, two recent MPH graduates from Georgia State University and the University of Missouri completed internships with the OH Surveillance Program to gain more public health and epidemiological experiences. The interns assisted the OH epidemiologist with data collection for the worksite wellness survey and data collection for the 2014 OH Indicators. *Intermediate Outcome:* Students and recent MPH graduates not only assist the OH surveillance program and obtain more work experience, but also will start their careers having gained a new understanding and respect for the role that occupation plays on health, including chronic diseases, and how occupation can be associated with almost any area within public health.

## **Reports and Data Summaries:**

- OH Indicators Data Summaries

The 2013 OH indicators demographic and summary tables and a data summary of key OH indicator trends during 2006-2013 have been published. Data for all the recommended OH indicators for calendar year 2014 have been collected and analyzed, except for Indicator 5 (workers' compensation claims for amputations with lost work time) and Indicator 8 (claims for carpal tunnel syndrome with lost work time). These data were submitted to NIOSH for quality checks and will be uploaded onto CSTE's website for state occupational health indicators. *Potential Outcome:* The OH Indicator data summaries are available on the DPH website and have been shared with members of the Occupational Health Advisory Committee. They can be used for increasing public awareness of work-related injuries and illnesses in Georgia as well as for targeting prevention and intervention efforts.