

# **Annual Report of Major Accomplishments and Impacts**

(July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)

Mississippi State Department of Health

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Surveillance Program

Grant Number: 5 U60 OH010918-03

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The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Surveillance Program continues to address the specific goals and objectives that were listed in the Program's research plan. The goals are:

1. Compile, analyze, and interpret data.
2. Identify work related injury, illness, and exposure trends.
3. Develop MSDH OHS Surveillance Program priorities.
4. Develop recommendations, prevention, and outreach activities throughout Mississippi.

## **A. Major Accomplishments**

In our efforts to meet the goals and objectives, the MSDH OHS Surveillance Program has achieved major accomplishments for the twelve-month performance period ending on June 30, 2017 including:

- One of the biggest accomplishments is the compiling and reporting of 2014 occupational health indicator data for the 21 requested indicators to CSTE/NIOSH in June 2017. Hospital discharge data was successfully obtained to calculate 6 indicators that were not conducted for the previous reporting period. They were Indicator 2 (work-related hospitalizations), Indicator 9 (hospitalizations from or with pneumoconiosis), Indicator 20 (work-related low back disorder hospitalizations), Indicator 22 (work-related severe traumatic injury hospitalization), Indicator 23 (influenza vaccination rates among health care providers), and Indicator 24 (heat-related ED visits).

- MSDH appointment of Ying He as a full-time Epidemiologist in May 2017 for the OHS Surveillance Grant. This added to our program potential in analysis of the Mississippi Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Industry /Occupational module.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and MSDH was reviewed by MSDH's legal department. The Data Use Agreement (DUA) was developed by MSDH and sent to CDC for review.
- The OHS program has become a significant resource for occupational health within the state through the webpage published on MSDH's website. This webpage enables the public to search for resources regarding occupational health and provides the latest news about state-wide occupational health topics.
- We developed the Mississippi Adult Blood Lead Level database for 2012-2016, which strengthened the collaboration with CDC for data sharing and communication on lead poisoning prevention.

## **B. Impacts**

With the growing capacity building activities involved in the data collection and analysis, the OHS program has had the potential to impact several programs and agencies throughout the state of Mississippi including:

- Three years (2010-2012) of aggregated occupational Heat-Related Emergency Department (ED) visit data was collected and analyzed. As a result of the collection and analysis of the data, the findings can be used to enhance the existing surveillance system, help the programs to target certain working populations and hence, decrease the occupational Heat-Related ED visits in Mississippi.
- We conducted monthly meetings with program staff to review and evaluate surveillance system process and performance.
- One of the striking successes was increased collaboration with internal and external partners through the expertise we gained from the OHS program. An example of this is additional funding for a grant we obtained from our collaboration with the University of Kentucky; this is allowing us to conduct a work-related opioid exposure survey among first responders in Mississippi.

### C. Presentations and Conferences

The MSDH OSH program participated in numerous presentations and conferences throughout the budget/performance period ending on June 30, 2017. A select few of the presentations and conferences the MSDH OHS Surveillance Program participated in include:

- In December 2016, Dr. Lei Zhang (Principal Investigator) attended the 2016 NIOSH/State Partners Meeting in Atlanta, GA.
- Dr. Lei Zhang attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern States Occupational Network (SouthON) meeting which was held April 2017 in Nashville, TN. Dr. Lei Zhang moderated the following sessions for Occupational Injury and Illness Surveillance: 1) *Data Standardization May Improve Data Analysis* and 2) *Quicktake: Construction Injuries in Kentucky, 2008-2015*.
- Dr. Lei Zhang participated in the 2017 Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist (CSTE) Annual Conference planning committee for the Occupational Health Surveillance track. This included helping to review abstracts that were submitted to the conference.
- Dr. Lei Zhang attended the 2017 CSTE Annual Conference held in Boise, ID, in June 2017. During this event, Dr. Lei Zhang moderated the session “Decrease the Lead Exposure”.
- Dr. Lei Zhang also attended an Occupational Health Sunday workshop - “Engaging Communities for Occupational Health and Safety” during the 2017 CSTE Pre-Conference.