Annual Report of Major Outputs and Outcomes, July 2014–June 2015

Florida Department of Health, Fundamental State-Based Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program
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Major Aims of the Program

1) **Building Capacity:** Build the state department of health's capacity to conduct surveillance for occupational illness and injury.
2) **Collection, Analysis, and Reporting of Occupational Illness and Injury Data:** Identify, collect, analyze, maintain, and report on state-based sources of occupational illness and injury.
3) **Policy Development:** Identify issues and means for increased involvement in and improvement of policies and processes related to occupational safety and health.
4) **Prevention and Intervention Activities:** Perform prevention and intervention activities related to identified high-risk occupations, industries, population subgroups, or exposures.

Major Outputs

Presentations

1) Chalmers, J. Occupational Health and Safety Program (OHSP) Update. Florida Occupational Injury and Illness Coalition meeting, February 2015. Oral presentation.
2) Chalmers, J. Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care and Education Professionals in Florida, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2013. Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Annual Conference, June 2015. Oral presentation.

Reports (Available on Florida Department of Health website)

3) Does Being Overweight or Obese Increase the Risk of Work-Related Injury? Final Report, Florida International University. June 2015.
4) **B**uilding **O**ccupational **L**essons in **T**oxic **S**ilica (BOLTS) Pilot Research Project. Final Report, University of Miami. June 2015.
5) Who Pays for Work-Related Injuries in Florida? An analysis of Florida Trauma Registry Data. 2015 Epi Update, Issue 1; May 2015. Epi Update is a quarterly journal containing reports about current epidemiologic issues in Florida.

Other Outputs

6) Harduar Morano, L. et al. Occupational Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits and Inpatient Hospitalizations in the Southeast Region, 2007-2011. Accepted to *American Journal of Industrial Medicine.*
7) Video: Work-related Asthma for Employees (English and Spanish). Collaboration with the Florida Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) Program.
8) Video: Work-related Asthma for Employers (English and Spanish). Collaboration with the Florida EPHT Program.
9) Occupational health indicators: 19 out of 22 submitted (lost SOII coverage in 2011).
10) Submitted updates to the NIOSH eNews newsletter for October 2014 issue.
11) New data sharing agreement signed by the Florida Department of Health and Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for access to Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. June 2015.

Major Outcomes

Partnership Building

- The OHSP hosted the third annual Florida Occupational Injury and Illness Coalition meeting in Tallahassee, Florida in February 2015. Topics included updates on OHSP projects, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reporting requirements, farmworkers and pesticides, status of the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Data in Florida, and improving partnerships. Coalition members represent government, university, community, and private organizations.

  Potential Outcome

  At the annual meeting, Coalition members expressed a desire to work together following the meeting on projects of mutual interest. One resultant project is geared towards providing free workshops to small business owners on how to create a safety plan.

Surveillance

- The OHSP began receiving regular transfers of Workers' Compensation data for pesticide-related illness and injury in May 2015.

  Intermediate Outcome

  The data is shared with the Chemical Disease Surveillance Program for follow-up as needed. Acute pesticide-related illness and injury is a reportable condition in Florida, a number of these are occupationally-related.

- Two questions about industry and occupation were added to the Florida Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) for a third year in a row. Data from 2012 was analyzed for influenza immunization coverage among health care and education occupations.

  Potential Outcome

  Continued collaboration with the influenza and immunization programs to brainstorm ways to address occupations with low vaccination uptake. Information will also be disseminated via a peer-review journal.

- Obtained access to Florida Poison Information Center Network data and analyzed eleven years of data for occupationally-related poisonings.

  Potential Outcome

  This is the first time this data has been characterized by occupational-relatedness in Florida. Once the final report is completed, the department will be able to share findings with the Florida Poison Information Center and other interested partners. It is also possible that the information can be summarized into a manuscript to be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

- Obtained access to Florida Trauma Registry data and partnered with the Florida Injury Prevention Program to analyze work-related injuries.

  Potential Outcome

  The analysis will further understanding of racial/ethnic disparities in Florida related to payment type and costs for severe work-related injuries. As described above, initial findings were published in the

Florida Department of Health's journal, Epi Update. Additional, more in depth analysis and findings will be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal for publication.

Collaborative and Contractual Projects

- The **B**uilding **O**ccupational **L**essons in **T**oxic **S**ilica (BOLTS) project was a collaborative effort with the University of Miami to assess whether a toolbox talk accompanied by an air monitoring demonstration was more effective than a toolbox talk alone at influencing behavior change and knowledge retention.

  Intermediate Outcome

  This pilot study revealed a significant difference in behavior change and knowledge by the type of toolbox talk received. Workers that received the toolbox talk and the monitoring demonstration had improved personal protective equipment (PPE) use and knowledge one week post intervention compared to workers that received the toolbox talk only. These findings will be incorporated into future interventions and results will be shared via manuscripts and presentations at national conferences.

- The OHSP contracted with Florida International University to carry out a project that examined the relationship between body mass index (BMI) and work-related injuries in a large university system.

  Potential Outcome

  The study found an association between a high BMI and an increased number of reported work-related injuries. The results show the value of linking university employee health risk appraisal data with workers' compensation claims data and the need for health promotion programs to emphasize maintaining a healthy weight to help reduce injuries. Further work will be done to investigate whether this type of data can be obtained and linked within Florida.

- The OHSP collaborated with the Florida EPHT Program, the Florida Building Resiliency Against Climate Effects (BRACE) Program, and the Florida State University to assess how temperature and humidity experienced by outdoor workers varies from what is reported by weather stations, and how it relates to heat watches and warnings. Data collection for this study was completed in July of 2015.

  Potential Outcome

  Assess how the individual temperature and humidity of outdoor workers differs from nearby weather stations and determine if the current heat watches and warnings are appropriate for outdoor workers.

- The OHSP and the Florida EPHT Program collaborated with a film-making studio to create four short videos on work-related asthma, one for employers and employees, in both English and Spanish. The videos can be viewed at http://www.floridatracking.com/HealthTrackFL/Video.aspx.

  Potential Outcome

  Increased awareness of work-related asthma in Florida.