

Annual Report of Major Outputs and Outcomes
Fundamental State-based Occupational Safety & Health Surveillance Program
Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH)
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Major Outputs:

- Inclusion Industry/Occupation in Georgia PRAMS

The Georgia DPH Occupational Health (OH) Surveillance Program in collaboration with DPH Maternal and Child Health Section has added employment-related questions to the 2016-2018 Georgia Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) questionnaires. GA PRAMS is a statewide, ongoing, population-based survey that collects information on women who give birth in Georgia. Georgia PRAMS supplements birth certificate data by collecting information on women's attitudes, experiences, and health risk behaviors before, during, and after they deliver a live born infant. *Potential Outcome:* It is known that some workplace hazards can affect a woman's reproductive health, her ability to become pregnant, or the health of her unborn child. The addition of questions on employment, including industry/occupation, is new to the Georgia PRAMS and will allow the state to assess health outcomes of pregnant women by employment-related factors. This information can be useful to help inform and support various health promotion programs in the state, such as the Maternal and Child Health, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Tobacco Use Prevention Programs.

- Inclusion of employment-related questions in Georgia YRBS

The Georgia OH Surveillance Program has added employment-related questions to the 2015 Georgia Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The YRBS obtains information from a random sample of public middle and high school students about the prevalence and age of initiation of various health risk behaviors such as tobacco use, physical activity, eating habits, alcohol and drug use, and behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence. *Potential Outcome:* Addition of employment-related questions to the YRBS will allow the state to determine the health risk behaviors and mental health status of students who work compared to students who do not work and to determine if the amount of hours worked and length of time employed play a role. This information can be used to assist in developing prevention strategies for youth.

- Participation in the NOMS Program

The Georgia OH Surveillance Program in collaboration with the Georgia Office of Vital Records is now participating in the NIOSH National Occupational Mortality Surveillance (NOMS) program. NOMS is a state-based program that monitors work-related acute and chronic disease mortality among workers. The program evaluates the size and extent of acute and chronic disease mortality in association with occupational and industrial settings. *Potential Outcome:* Since mortality data is used by several programs within DPH, inclusion of industry and occupation codes within Georgia mortality data will bring more attention to industry/occupation as being key demographic variables for various programs. In addition, the identification of risks for mortality by industry/occupation can lead to opportunities for prevention.

Reports and Data Summaries:

- Georgia OH Indicator Surveillance Report

The Georgia OH Surveillance Report has been updated for years 2008-2012. The surveillance report estimates the burden of work-related injuries and illnesses in Georgia and is based on the 22 occupational health indicators recommended by CSTE/NIOSH. The report also includes state-specific indicators for arthritis among employees and workplace secondhand smoke exposure. *Potential Outcome:* The report will be available on GA DPH website, the NIOSH State-based Occupational Health Surveillance Clearinghouse, and shared with members of the OH Advisory Committee for further dissemination. Data from this report can be used for monitoring work-related injuries and illnesses in Georgia as well as targeting prevention and intervention efforts for Georgia's workers.

- Georgia Work-Related Pesticide Exposures Data Summary

Work-related pesticide exposures are one of the OH indicators of special interest in Georgia, particularly because rates of calls to the Poison Center for pesticide exposures have been higher than the national rate. A work-related pesticide exposure data summary utilizing data from the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) and the Georgia Poison Center (GPC) has been created in order to characterize work-related pesticide-associated illnesses and injuries reported during 2006-2011. It includes information on case demographics, type of substance, route of exposure, and exposure effects. *Potential Outcome:* Data from this summary can be used to bring attention to the need for more in-depth surveillance and prevention of work-related pesticide exposures in Georgia. This summary will be available on GA DPH website, the NIOSH State-based

Occupational Health Surveillance Clearinghouse, and shared with members of the OH Advisory Committee for further dissemination.

Conferences/Presentations:

- SouthON 4th Annual Meeting Presentation

The Georgia OH surveillance epidemiologist conducted an oral presentation entitled “Exploring Emergency Department and Inpatient Hospitalization Data for Work-related Injuries and Illnesses, Georgia, 2007-2011” at the Southeastern States Occupational Health Network (SouthON) 4th Annual Meeting held in Lexington, KY. The purpose of the analysis presented was to determine the burden of work-related injuries and illnesses resulting in visits to the emergency room and hospitalizations in Georgia. The most common work-related diagnoses and external causes of injury were identified. *Intermediate Outcome:* Presenting at the SouthON meeting allowed for knowledge sharing with other epidemiologists and occupational health professionals. The presentation will also be available on SouthON’s website for further dissemination.

- 2015 CSTE Annual Conference Planning Committee and Roundtable

The OH surveillance epidemiologist participated on the 2015 Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Conference planning committee for the Occupational Health Surveillance track. This included helping to review 15+ abstracts that were submitted to the conference. In addition, the OH epidemiologist participated in planning a CSTE Conference roundtable discussion entitled “Practical Issues in Exploring Industry and Occupation (I/O) in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)”. During this roundtable, the epidemiologist discussed Georgia’s experiences and technical challenges with analyzing and using its first year of I/O coded data in the BRFSS. *Intermediate Outcome:* Participating in the conference planning committee allowed for discussions and networking with other states regarding current and emerging topics important for occupational health surveillance. Participating in the BRFSS Roundtable provided more visibility for Georgia’s use of BRFSS I/O data. It also allowed for learning how other states have used and made impacts with BRFSS I/O data which will be useful for future analysis of Georgia BRFSS data.