

Annual Report of Major Outputs & Outcomes

July 2014 to June 2015

Illinois Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance, Fundamental Program

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The Illinois Occupational Surveillance Program completed its 5th year. **Specific aims** are to:

- enhance use of Federal data sources;
- enhance use of traditional and non-traditional state data sources;
- strengthen collaborations between researchers, state agencies, businesses, unions, and non-profits to promote awareness of occupational health issues and actions that address problems identified through surveillance;
- promote reporting of occupational surveillance data from Illinois to national repositories;
- conduct analyses of individual surveillance databases, linked records across two more databases, and data that is aggregated from national repositories to better inform the injury/illness numbers, rates, and trends in terms of risk factors, severity, resources used, short and long-term outcomes, and cost;
- disseminate results to stakeholders who can use them for targeted prevention activities;
- establish a system for setting intervention priorities based on quantitative and qualitative analysis of surveillance results, exploration of interventions tested in other settings, ease of implementation, and cost;
- continuously evaluate, study and update the surveillance system as results become available, stronger links are made with stakeholders, and other states demonstrate innovative methods.

MAJOR OUTPUTS

Publications

Tran M; Forst L; Buchanan S. Not on the radar: active commuting as a workplace wellness issue. J Occup Environ Med 2015 Sep; 57(9):e91-e92

Forst L, Friedman L, Chin B; Madigan D. Spatial clustering of occupational injuries in communities. Am J Publ Health 2015 Jul; 105(S3):S526-S533

Mabila SL, Gracia G, Cohen R, Almberg K, and Friedman LS. Injury and Illness Data for Illinois Mining Industry Employees, 1990 to 2012. J Occ Environ Med. EPUB.

Note: the following are general injury surveillance research publications that investigators were able to conduct with the databases that were assembled in the Illinois Occupational Surveillance Program:

Koopmans JM, **Friedman L**, Kwon S, Sheehan K. Urban crash-related child pedestrian injury incidence and characteristics associated with injury severity. Accid Anal Prev. 2015 Apr;77:127-36. doi: 10.1016/j.aap.2015.02.005. Epub 2015 Feb 19.

Toomey A, **Friedman L**. Mortality in cancer patients after a fall-related injury: The impact of cancer spread and type. Injury. 2014;45(11):1710-6. doi: 10.1016/j.injury.2014.03.008. Epub 2014 Mar 27.

Friedman LS. Complications associated with blood alcohol concentration following injury. Alcohol. 2014;48(4):391-400. doi: 10.1016/j.alcohol.2014.01.008. Epub 2014 Apr 24.

Krajewski AK, Friedman LS. Hospital outcomes and economic costs from poisoning cases in Illinois. *Clin Toxicol (Phila)*. 2015 Jun;53(5):433-45. doi: 10.3109/15563650.2015.1030677. Epub 2015 Apr 14.

Presentations

- Forst L. Occupational Hazards in the Temporary Services Industry. Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. Webinar. February 27, 2015
- Forst L, Chin B, Friedman L. Occupational Injuries at the Community Level. *Occup Environ Med*. 2014 Suppl:A70-1. Presented at EPICOH Chicago, June 2014
- Gracia G, Forst L. Monitoring Mercury Exposure among Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners: Developing and Evaluating a Surveillance Protocol. *Occup Environ Med*. 2014 Jun;71 Suppl 1:A105-6. Presented at EPICOH Chicago, June 2014
- Forst, L. Workers in the Temporary Services Industry 2015. American Occupational Health Conference. May 2015.
- Forst L, Schmitz M. Injury and Occupation Coding in a Needs Assessment Mandated by the ACA. National Occupational Injury Research Symposium. WVa, May 2015.

Grant Proposals

- Submitted to NIMHD: Workers' Compensation and Working Poor. Not funded.
- Submitted to Illinois Education and Research Center: Workers' Compensation and Working Poor. Not funded.
- Submitted to Inst of Medicine of Chicago: Workers' Compensation and the Working Poor. Pending review
- Submitted to NIOSH: Illinois Occupational Surveillance Program 2 +Adult Blood Lead Registry. Funded for 5 years (2015-2020)
- Submitted to NIOSH: Putting Workers' Compensation Data to Work in Illinois. Pending review.

Reports

- Occupational Health Indicators, 2012. Reported to NIOSH, State Based Surveillance
- Annual Report to the Illinois Workers Compensation Commission for calendar year 2014, January 2015
- Occupational Health Indicators in Illinois 1998-2011. Published by IDPH, IWCC, UIC in partnership under IOSP
- 195 separate documents/reports uploaded to NIOSH Clearinghouse site <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/niosh-survapps/statedocs/>

Press Releases/Interviews/Testimonies

- <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2015.302595>
- Forst L. Interviewed for Public Health Minute. <https://soundcloud.com/publichealthminute> (recorded; to be produced and made available in October 2015)
- Batra S, Forst L. Testimony on Workers' Compensation before the Illinois State Legislature, May 2015
- Forst L. Invited testimony on Workers' Compensation before the Illinois Senate, June 2015.

Website

- <http://illinoisinjuryprevention.org/> Populating site additional publications and fact sheets.

OUTCOMES

Partnerships

IOSP continues to intensify partnerships with State agencies and other stakeholders to complete occupational surveillance and intervention activities. Evidence as follows:

- *Illinois Workers Compensation Commission: 1) We received a contract to develop a web-based form for First Reports of Injury for Illinois (2014-5). 2) We present on occupational illness and injury sentinels to the Arbitrators once per year.*

- *Illinois Department of Public Health:* 1) We attend quarterly meeting to improve data sharing between the State Health Department and researchers. In the past year IDPH provided funds for UIC School of Public Health to review policy related to release of HIPAA protected data. IOSP serves as the model for the value and importance of data release in the State and investigators are actively engaged in studying state legislation to improve data sharing.
- *Worker Centers: Chicago Workers Collaborative:* We are conducting a series of collaborative projects, including training of workers on health and safety, gathering surveillance data from workers; co-wrote a grant proposal.
- *Region 5 OSHA:* We met with the Region 5 and are developing a work plan for reporting from trauma centers and from workers' compensation reports to Region 5 OSHA to improve their enforcement activities.
- *Other investigators:* 1) IOSP investigators are part of the CDC's Workplace Health Research Network, which is a SIP of the UIC Prevention Research Center. We are on working groups with UNC, CUNY, UWashington to collaborate on health promotion projects.
- Support from new state administration: Grant proposal (NIOSH: Workers' Compensation) endorsed by new Governor and new appointees to the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission
- Continued annual funding (4th year) for Occupational Health Internship Program to work with community groups (Workers for Justice, Chicago Workers' Collaborative) that are associated with the Illinois SBS program (IOSP)
- Solicitation by OSHA Region V for partnership related to reporting
- Meeting with the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health (David Michaels) regarding the implementation of the new recordkeeping requirements.

Increased credibility among peer reviewers/experts

- Renewed funding of the Illinois SBS Fundamental Program + Lead
- Funded co-investigator of CDC's Prevention Research Center funding of Special Interest Project—Workplace Health Research Network
- Invitation to NIOSH's Workers' Compensation think tank meeting
- 6 Solicitations for peer reviewing manuscripts by journals
- 2 solicitation to peer review grant proposals (Ontario, Canada; NIOSH SEP)
- Invitations to speak/talk to the press about low wage workers
- Invitation to present at American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine annual conference
- Invitation to write a curriculum on occupational health for subsistence gold miners

Advancing research methods related to surveillance

- Increased evidence-directed intervention design relating to gaps in workplace wellness programming related to active commuting (article cited above)
- Use of GIS and data linkage in occupational health: demonstrated the burden of occupational injuries on communities and work as a determinant of health
- Participated on a national work group with the American Association of Poison Control Centers to develop a coding crosswalk between the PCC Poisindex system and ICD-9 and ICD-10 coding. Crosswalk was finalized in June 2015. Coding and basis for much of the crosswalk was developed
- Worked with national group of researchers in developing and creating SAS code for new injury severity scale. New scale improves on the ISS (injury severity scale) both statistically and in predicting mortality. SAS code is publicly available to researchers

Increasing expertise among researchers

- New assistant professor David Swedler, PhD MPH, collaborating on occupational surveillance work
- New research coordinator, Alanah Raykovich, MPH
- 25 public health students trained in occupational surveillance
- 6 Occupational Medicine residents trained in occupational surveillance