

Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance and Intervention in New York State
Occupational Health Indicators
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

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BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PROJECT

This project supports general occupational health surveillance activities including the occupational health indicators, the New York State (NYS) Occupational Health Clinic Network, the NYS Heavy Metals Registry, and special projects.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND OUTPUTS

Occupational Health Indicators

- NYSDOH staff has continued to generate all of 22 of the occupational health indicators (OHIs) on an annual basis.
- NYSDOH was the lead in the development of the OHI on work-related asthma and finalized the how-to guidance that was included in the March 2014 update of the “Occupational Health Indicators: A Guide for Tracking Occupational Health Conditions and Their Determinants.” NYSDOH is also responsible for providing technical assistance to states collecting this indicator.
- NYSDOH has also pilot tested and calculated the newest OHI “Work-Related Severe Traumatic Injury Hospitalizations” and has taken over as indicator lead. Staff is now responsible for providing technical assistance to states collecting the data for this indicator.
- NYSDOH continues to provide technical assistance for the three OHIs involving the use of hospitalization data (work-related hospitalizations, work-related hospitalized burns, and pneumoconiosis). In addition, NYSDOH provides technical assistance for the work-related asthma indicator and the work-related severe traumatic injury hospitalizations indicators.
- NYSDOH staff participate on the OHI Sub-State Level Data Analysis workgroup providing advice and input into the development of a how-to guide for sub-state level indicators. The how-to guide has been drafted and a final document will be completed this fall.
- Five of the OHIs have been calculated at the county level in New York State and provided to the Community Health Indicator Reports to improve community access to occupational health data in a user-friendly environment. These include calculating and mapping rates for three years for all pneumoconiosis hospitalizations, asbestosis hospitalizations, work-related hospitalizations, malignant mesothelioma, and elevated blood lead levels (≥ 10 $\mu\text{g/dL}$) among adults.

The three-year rate for each county was compared to the NYS rate for the above listed OHIs along with the incidence of malignant mesothelioma, elevated blood lead levels for both ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g/dL}$ and ≥ 25 $\mu\text{g/dL}$, and fatal work-related injuries.

- Staff is working to incorporate information from six occupational health indicators into the Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) program at the state level for the years 2000-2010. All indicators will be added to the portal, and county-level data and maps will be added for elevated blood lead levels, both ≥ 10 mcg/dL and ≥ 25 mcg/dL, work-related hospitalizations, pneumoconiosis hospitalizations, asbestosis hospitalizations, fatal occupational injuries, and mesothelioma. All 20 of the state-wide CSTE indicators from 2000-2010 will also be included in the EPHT portal. Data will be updated on an annual basis.
- Staff is working on a multi-year summary of the OHI's including trend analyses, and analyses by race, ethnicity, and sex. State specific indicators are included. Some indicators are being further examined by geography, race and age. The first two reports examining the profile of workers in NYS since 2000, and blood lead levels among adults are currently posted on the updated NYSDOH Occupational Health Indicators webpage. New reports examining work-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits are currently undergoing internal review. As each indicator report is completed, it will be posted to the same site.

Adult Blood Lead Surveillance

- The *Lead on the Job* brochure for workers has been rewritten and piloted with focus groups to include more up-to-date information. This has been translated into Spanish. Both versions have been made available to the public on the NYSDOH website.
- The adult blood lead program has worked with the childhood lead program in identifying pregnant women with elevated blood lead levels and informing the local health departments of the case with the due date to ensure the newborn gets their lead level tested and appropriate interventions occur.
- Staff is working on incorporating all blood lead levels, regardless of level, into the Heavy Metals Registry's electronic database for case matching. This will allow staff to see and evaluate an individual's full lead testing history. Cases are currently only case matched at 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or higher.
- Staff from the adult lead program developed adult blood lead management guidelines. In collaboration with Wadsworth Laboratory staff, the guidance document and a letter will be mailed to all New York State laboratory directors for their reference in interpreting blood lead levels in adults. Wadsworth Laboratories oversees the Clinical Laboratory Evaluation Program.
- A Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) is being developed for all lead questionnaires. The CATI will allow for appropriate public health messages to appear on the screen depending on the responses to the questionnaire to ensure correct educational information regarding the reduction of lead exposure and appropriate personal protection is given to the individual, depending on the source of their lead exposure. The CATI will streamline staff time by eliminating data entry and minimizing data clean up, and will allow the lead questionnaire data to be uploaded daily into the Heavy Metals Registry database.

Special Projects

- Staff incorporated a goal of reducing occupational injuries and illnesses into the NYS Prevention Agenda for 2013-2017. A NYS Prevention Agenda Dashboard has been created displaying an interactive visual presentation to monitor progress of those objectives that were selected as indicators. Data were provided to the dashboard displaying both the number and

rate of occupational injuries treated in an emergency department per 10,000 adolescents, aged 15-19 years old, by county, in comparison to the prevention agenda goal. New York State is significantly improved for this goal.

- Staff participated in the NYS Nail Salon Industry Enforcement Task Force along with the Department of State, Department of Labor and Governor Cuomo's office in developing regulations to protect nail salon workers throughout New York State. This also involved creating a Worker's Bill of Rights, and fact sheets and presentations for workers and owners.
- Staff participated in the Safe Patient Handling workgroup. This workgroup was established as part of the New York State's Safe Patient Handling Law for the purpose of identifying best practices, sample policies and other resources, to assist health care facilities in implementing the law.
- Staff continues to collaborate with the NYS Young Workers Safety and Health Project, a multi-state agency project devoted to educating teens on workplace safety and health issues.
- Staff continues to oversee and support the eleven clinics in the New York State Occupational Health Clinic Network which aid in the recognition, diagnosis, and treatment of occupational diseases. Over 7,600 patients were seen in more than 11,800 visits. Data from the Network are being analyzed to better identify disparities in relation to a patient's diagnosis, exposure, occupation, and industry. New brochures advertising the clinic network have been published – *Protecting the Workers of New York State: For Workers, Retirees, and Residents*, and *Protecting the Workers of New York State: For Businesses*.
- Staff has participated in workgroups with the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, the Traumatic Brain Injury Coordinating Council, Safe Schools Task Force, Safe Patient Handling work group, Traffic Incident Management team, Young Workers Safety Group, and with climate change surveillance programs, exploring areas of collaboration and incorporation of occupational health and safety practices into other arenas.
- Data from the New York State Trauma Registry are being explored and a descriptive analysis of the work-related injuries has been conducted. Data are also being stratified by mechanism of injury.
- Staff worked with the University of Albany, School of Public Health, in participating on the dissertation committee for a doctoral student examining surveillance methodology for injuries in agriculture and forestry.
- Staff participated in NYSDOH-wide discussions about high risk populations for extreme heat issues associated with climate change.
- Staff introduced the NYS Department of Budget to occupational health issues through a tour of the local community describing worker health issues.
- Staff collaborated with the California Department of Health on an actor exposed to HIV on the set of a male adult entertainment company. The filming occurred in Nevada but one of the potential companies was New York based. OSHA and NYSDOH AIDS Institute participated in the contact investigation. No actors in NYS were found to be HIV-positive.
- The Occupational Health Surveillance Program web page was reworked to allow easier access to DOH occupational health programs, and to include the Occupational Health Indicators.

http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/workplace/occupational_health_surveillance/

POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

Presentations

- “Using Hospital Data to Identify Disparities in Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses in New York State.” CSTE Annual Meeting, June 2015, Boston, MA.
- “Evaluating the Use of Traumatic Injury Data in Occupational Health Surveillance, New York State.” CSTE Annual Meeting, June 2015, Boston, MA.
- “Occupational Health Surveillance.” Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology Course, at SUNY Albany School of Public Health, March, 2015, Rensselaer, NY.
- “Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention.” Environmental Health Directors Meeting, October 2014, Cortland, NY.
- “Occupational Health Indicators, County Level Depiction.” 2014 NIOSH Partners Meeting for State Occupational Health Surveillance, December, 2014, Cincinnati, OH.

Publications

- Occupational Health Indicators in New York State: 2000-2010. Chapter 1: The Changing New York State Worker Profile.
http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/workplace/occupational_health_surveillance/indicators_report.htm
- Occupational Health Indicators in New York State: 2000-2010. Chapter 2: Elevated Blood Lead Levels among Adults.
http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/workplace/occupational_health_surveillance/indicators_report.htm

Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance and Intervention in New York State
New York State: Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (NY FACE) Annual Report
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

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BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PROJECT

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program investigates work-related fatalities and researches and develops prevention measures to reduce and prevent occupational injuries and fatalities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND OUTPUTS

- NY FACE identified 100 work-related fatalities during this project year.
- Staff finalized and posted two fatality reports (*09NY095 Tower Technician Killed When Guyed Tower Collapsed* and *12Y033 Restaurant Co-owner Fatally Crushed by a Dumbwaiter Car*). All FACE reports are shared with the victims' employers, EMS, OSHA, Sheriff's offices, State Police, labor unions, equipment manufacturers, and trade associations.
- Staff completed a news piece "*Construction Falls Kill Workers -Join the National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction (May 4-15)*." It was published in the May issue of the Injury Prevention News - a monthly electronic newsletter published by the Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention. The newsletter is disseminated to 550 local public health and safety professionals.
- Staff completed an article titled "*Prevent Fatal Falls among Public Employees in New York State - The Risk Factors and Prevention Strategies*." NY FACE recorded 28 fatal falls among public employees in upstate New York between 2002 and 2014. The article summarized the cases, identified risk factors, and proposed prevention measures. It was published in the May/June issue of "Talk of the Town," a bi-monthly magazine published by the Association of Towns of the State of New York. The Association represents 932 towns in New York.
- Staff gave a presentation "Dumbwaiters Can Kill – A Case Study" at the NYSDOH Center for Environmental Health's Director's Round. Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention and Bureau of Community Environmental Health and Food Protection attended the Director's Round as a way to improve collaboration. Staff provided an overview of the NY FACE program and discussed a fatality case *12NY033 Restaurant Co-owner Fatally Crushed by a Dumbwaiter Car*. The Food Protection staff work with the restaurant industry and the restaurant inspectors. They offered ideas regarding dissemination of the injury prevention messages to restaurant owners.
- Staff also developed and delivered the following articles, presentations, and email announcements:
 - *NY FACE Injury Prevention Updates*
 - *Worker Fatality Monthly Announcements*

- *Why Worker Safety is a Must for a Successful Resort (Presentation)*
- *Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene and Fatal Occupational Injury Prevention (Presentation)*

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

- Staff coordinated and participated in a presentation and panel discussion session at the Ski Expo 2014. The title of the session was “*Why Worker Safety is a Must for a Successful Resort – Learn from the Experts.*” The other presenters were Dave Byrd, Director of Risk Management of National Ski Area Association; Andy Reed, Assistant Area Director of OSHA; Eileen Franko, Director of Division of Safety and Health, NYS Department of Labor; Ronda Anderson, Insurance Consulting Expertise; Lonny Whitcomb, Snow Time Resort; and Bill Snyder, Hunter Mountain. A worker fatality case and several lift related injury cases along with the elements of resort risk management and safety programs were discussed during the session. A total of 42 people attended the session. The attendees represented 16 resorts, four insurance and risk management firms, and two equipment manufactures in eight states. Ten people completed the survey/evaluation sheet. Nine wanted more training on OSHA compliance assistance; eight on snowmaking safety; six on slips and falls; and seven on lift maintenance, resort safety programs, and worker training. All would like to attend more sessions like this on resort worker safety.
- Ski Areas of New York (SANY) Lift Maintenance Committee (LMC) discussed how to improve and strengthen the annual lift maintenance training program. The training program includes demonstration and discussion of six major lift maintenance tasks that are conducted by six resorts selected by the LMC. NY FACE staff attended several of the training sessions and learned that some of the lift maintenance tools can cause injuries if not used properly. NY FACE suggested the Committee add tool safety into the training program. The Committee adopted the recommendation and will require the host resorts to discuss tool safety during each training.
- The monthly column FACEValue of Safety + Health Magazine, published by the National Safety Council (NSC), featured a NY FACE investigation report *11NY043 Operator Killed when Horizontal Auger Boring Machine Overturned* in the January 2015 issue. The NSC is a not-for-profit international public service organization with a mission to educate and influence people to prevent accidental injuries and deaths. Safety + Health Magazine has a subscription base of 86,000 safety professionals.
- Four NY FACE injury prevention products were included in the annual OSHA list of compliance assistance products for FY 2014: *04NY121 Farm Worker Dies during Grain Bin Auger Entanglement*, *04NY010 Dairy Farm Owner Dies during Manure Pump PTO Entanglement*, *11NY043 Operator Killed when Horizontal Auger Boring Machine Overturned*, and *02NY007 Truck Driver Run Over by Trash Compactor in Municipal Landfill* (fact sheet).
- EMS Medicine, edited by Derek Cooney (first edition) to be published by McGraw Hill will include a photo and case information from a NY FACE investigation report “Department of Public Works Worker and a Volunteer Firefighter Died in a Sewer Manhole (10NY060).”
- OSHA updated its Tree Care Industry webpage and added links to all tree work-related fatality reports completed by NIOSH and state FACE programs. One NY FACE report *05NY034 Guatemalan Tree-Service Worker Killed When Pulled into Brush Chipper* was included.

- A safety and health consultant of Access Compliance in Latham used two NY FACE reports (*10NY060 A Department of Public Works Worker and a Volunteer Firefighter Died in a Sewer Manhole* and *03NY027 City Engineer Killed in Landfill Manhole when Retrieving Flow Meter*) to develop confined space safety training materials for his clients.
- Information on heat-related illnesses and prevention measures prepared by the NY FACE staff was used to develop a newsletter article “Keep Cool during Summer Heat.” The article was published in the July/August issue of Injury Prevention News which is electronically mailed to 550 local public health and safety professionals.
- The Director of Industrial Hygiene Service for the Occupational and Environmental Health Center of Eastern New York incorporated NY FACE reports into a 30-hour OSHA Construction Safety course. Thirty-five members of Operating Engineers Local 158 attended the training. The trainees selected six fatality reports from the NY FACE webpage to view and discuss. The trainees first studied the case summaries and then came up with their own prevention measures. The Director stated that these reports were great training tools. They held the trainees’ interest and kept them engaged and “the trainees loved them.”
- NY FACE report *04NY012 Flagger Dies after being Struck by a Pickup Truck in a Highway Work Zone* was incorporated into a 8-hour HAZMAT training curriculum by Hunter College. The training was provided to approximately 250 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation field and management staff.
- The Director of Industrial Hygiene Service for the Occupational and Environmental Health Center of Eastern New York incorporated the NY FACE report “*05NY007 City Employee Killed when Clothing became Entangled around an Unguarded PTO Shaft on a Salt Truck*” into a machine guarding training curriculum. The training was provided to 25 machine operators at a copper wire manufacturer in Albany. The trainees learned the case scenario and discussed the prevention measures.
- A Safety manager for NYS Parks Genesee Region requested 200 copies of *Logging Safety: A Field Guide*. The Field Guides were disseminated during safety meetings and annual trainings to Allegany, Niagara, and Genesee counties and were well received by staff and supervisors. The manager stated that information in the Field Guide is clear and straightforward; the book fits perfectly into a tool box or a glove box in a truck, and it is laminated so it is not easily damaged by rain or snow.
- Five hundred *Logging Safety: A Field Guide* were mailed to a certified Game of Logging (GOL) trainer. GOL is a training program teaching chainsaw safety to professional loggers, forest land owners, farmers, parks and utility workers, and firemen. Last year, more than 1,400 people attended the training class and received the Field Guide.

**Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance and Intervention in New York State
Pesticide Poisoning Surveillance Program**

July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

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BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PROJECT

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Pesticide Poisoning Registry (PPR) was established in 1990 and requires a) physicians and health facilities to report suspected or confirmed pesticide poisonings, and b) clinical laboratories to report depressed cholinesterase results, indicative of some pesticide exposures, within 48 hours. Interventions, which include interviews with the affected individual, is structured around individual reports. Using the Sentinel Event Notification System of Occupational Risk (SENSOR) model, each reported case may indicate an unanticipated hazard of a new product or the first report of a larger issue that could include a cluster of cases. The interview is an opportunity to discuss the hazards of pesticides, and ways to reduce or eliminate exposure through Integrated Pest Management (IPM), product substitution or use of protective equipment. In cases of occupational exposures or clusters, an industrial hygiene consultation is available.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND OUTPUTS

From July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, staff reviewed nearly 1,500 reports of suspected pesticide poisoning. Of those, 134 cases met NIOSH's definition of definite, probably, possible, and suspicious. This data are used internally to identify trends in acute pesticide poisonings and emerging pesticide hazards and guide education and outreach efforts for pesticide poisoning prevention. Outside partners use these data in their program functions. The 2013-2014 SENSOR Pesticide Incident Data Entry and Reporting (SPIDER) data were submitted to NIOSH. These data are aggregated with data from other SENSOR states for use in their research.

Public inquires for information regarding the health effects associated with exposure to certain pesticides and products continue to be received. PPR staff provides requested information or makes appropriate referrals to other NYSDOH bureaus and other state agencies that are able to respond to the needs of a call or email inquiry.

Data Partnerships

Our existing partnerships for data acquisition continue to be maintained and further developed. The major sources of data reports are:

- Poison Control Centers (PCC): Through Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the New York City Regional Poison Control Center and the Upstate New York Poison Control Center, pesticide poisoning calls are reported to the NYSDOH PPR in almost "real-time." Our

relationship with the PCCs has allowed for continued timely reporting of pesticide exposure calls and has been a valuable resource to the program.

- FIFRA 6(a)(2) Report: The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) requires pesticide product registrants to submit adverse effects information about their products to the USEPA. The reports are subsequently shared with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and NYSDOH Bureau of Toxic Substance Assessment (BTSA). Our partnership with BTSA has provided us with continued access to these reports.
- Health Care Professionals: Direct reports are received from emergency departments and physicians in attendance of a patient with health effects resulting from a pesticide exposure. Our periodic outreach to providers that includes resources for the diagnosis and reporting of pesticide poisonings has served to foster the relationship between the NYSDOH PPR and the medical community. The resources include information on the recognition, diagnosis, and reporting of a pesticide poisoning, state reporting requirements, HIPAA compliance information, and information on the NYSDOH PPR.
- A collaborative effort with the NYS Occupational Health Clinic Network permits close to real-time reporting of patients seen throughout the eleven statewide clinics in the network through the Occupational Health Network Information System (a web-based data entry program).
- NYS Workers' Compensation: Through a Memorandum of Understanding with the NYS Workers' Compensation Board (WCB), the Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention has received accepted WC claims related to pesticide poisonings from 2011-forward. Details from these claims are extracted from the WC eCase system for details regarding the poisoning. eCase is the WCB web software that serves as an electronic case folder for all WC claims.
- National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC): NPIC provides information on calls they receive that involve human incidents where the exposure route and product name is known. This information is reviewed for inclusion in the NYSDOH PPR.

POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

- The NYSDOH developed a new webpage titled Pests, Pesticides, and Repellents. The aim of the page is to reduce pesticide exposure and instruct on ways to manage pests.
<http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/pests/pesticid.htm>
- A new fact sheet "Take Care When Using Flea and Tick Control Products" was developed along with a corresponding webpage. The resources aim to reduce poisonings from flea and tick control treatments, a common exposure reported to the Pesticide Poisoning Registry and the two New York State poison control centers.
www.health.ny.gov/environmental/pests/fleatick.htm
- A new fact sheet "Take Care When Using Lice Control Products" was developed along with a corresponding webpage. The resources aim to reduce poisonings from lice control treatments, a common exposure reported to the Pesticide Poisoning Registry and the two New York State poison control centers.
<http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/pests/lice.htm>
- In collaboration with the Education and Outreach Unit, an outreach campaign was initiated using targeted Facebook posts and google search ads to direct traffic to the above mentioned newly created webpages. During the campaign period (June 2015), the flea and tick webpage

received approximately 6,000 page views and the lice page received approximately 4,000 page views.

- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation was provided information on work-relatedness and activity at time of exposure of pesticide poisoning reports for federal fiscal year 10/1/2013-9/30/2014. The data were included in an annual report to the Region 2 US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs. The USEPA Office of Pesticide Programs collects pesticide exposure and incident data from a variety of sources including the states and may use it in pesticide-related reports and decision making.
- Educational materials on how a pesticide applicator/handler should handle their clothing was distributed to the Migrant Services Program Manager at Oswego County Opportunities for distribution to migrant workers.
- A program guide entitled “The Landlord and Tenant Guide to Pest Management” was distributed to housing authorities, county departments of aging, statewide landlord and tenant associations, and outreach and education specialists with Cornell Cooperative Extension. It summarizes and explains the NYS Environmental Conservation Law on pesticide application in multi-unit dwellings and provides helpful tips on pest management.

Presentations

- “*Pesticide Poisoning Surveillance: New York State Update*” was presented at the SENSOR-Pesticides 2015 Winter Workshop held in New Orleans in February 2015.

**Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance and Intervention in New York State
Work-related Asthma Surveillance Program**
July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

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BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PROJECT

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention's (BOHIP) Occupational Lung Disease Registry conducts surveillance of work-related lung disease, including work-related asthma, through state mandated reporting. Under the reporting regulations, physicians, health facilities, and clinical laboratories are required to report any patient with clinical evidence of occupational lung disease. Emergency department data and hospital discharge data are used to identify potential cases seen in hospitals. The NYSDOH also partners with other NYSDOH programs and state agencies to identify work-related asthma (WRA) cases. The program analyzes the data from the Occupational Lung Disease Registry and population-based data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Asthma Call Back Survey to characterize work-related asthma in New York State. The program conducts worker and company follow-up and provides intervention services to help prevent ongoing or future exposures, and to protect other persons who may be at risk.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND OUTPUTS

Data Partnerships

- Through an on-going partnership and Memorandum of Understanding with the NYS Workers Compensation Board (WCB), the program has received accepted WC claims related to occupational lung disease from 2011-forward. These claims are reviewed in eCase to determine the cause of the lung disease and details of the exposure, including whether it was work-related asthma. eCase is the WCB electronics case folder for people in New York's workers compensation system and includes scanned images of all documents related to their case.
- A collaborative effort with the NYS Occupational Health Clinic Network permits close to real-time reporting of patients seen throughout the eleven statewide clinics in the network through the Occupational Health Network Information System (a web-based data entry program).
- Working closely with the NYSDOH Bureau of Health Informatics and the Data Protection Review Board, we have been able to gain access to hospital discharge data that are updated monthly. This allows us to query the data for work-related asthma hospitalizations on a more "real-time" basis providing opportunities for more timely follow-up.

- Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the New York City Regional Poison Control Center and the Upstate New York Poison Control Center has allowed us to review poison control center (PCC) calls on occupational exposures occurring in New York to identify potential WRA cases. Calls are reported to us within 24 hour. When enough identifying information is provided during a PCC call, further follow-up with the potential case and the medical care provider, where applicable, is conducted to confirm WRA.

POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

- Data on 537 work-related asthma cases from 2009-2011 were submitted to NIOSH. These data are aggregated with data from the other four NIOSH-funded states (California, Massachusetts, Michigan, and New Jersey) conducting work-related asthma surveillance for use in NIOSH's research and for publication in the eWoRLD tables.
- Medical records on 725 work-related asthma cases for 2012-2014 were reviewed.
- WRA information was provided for the New York State Asthma Surveillance Summary Report, a NYSDOH publication that includes a chapter on WRA. The aim of the report is to help public health programs, policy makers, and health care providers recognize the scope of the problem and to engage partners to help reduce the burden of asthma in New York State.
- The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI), a professional organization with more than 6,800 members, has reviewed our Public Health Live webcast Work-related Asthma: Recognition and Diagnosis, and approved it for placement within the AAAAI online CME program.
- There has been continued interest in the "Is Your Asthma Work-related?" brochure. The brochure is available on the NYSDOH web site, <http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2775.pdf>
- Three articles, *Could your patient have work-related asthma?*, *Diagnosis of occupational diseases?*, and *Could your asthma be work-related?* were sent to 42 medical societies and 20 health care organizations for inclusion in their newsletters.
- A trigger for work-related asthma is poor air quality. The NYSDOH has been working on new green tracer gas technologies to assess building ventilation effectiveness and its impact on indoor air quality.
- The NYSDOH is part of the NYS Nail Salon Task Force, to address the health and safety of nail salon workers and owners. The NYSDOH is conducting a review of chemical agents used in nail salons which focused on the types of chemicals found in nail products, the potential adverse health effects associated with exposure to nail-product chemicals, evidence of chemical exposures in nail salon workers, and evidence supporting actions to reduce chemical exposures in nail salons. Informational sessions for nail salon workers and owners have been held in several New York State locations.

IMPACTS

- The NYSDOH assisted in developing an emergency regulation to protect nail salon workers, and in developing a nail salon ventilation regulation that has been issued for public comment.
- More than 2,500 regulated lodging facilities and bed and breakfasts in New York State received safety tip cards on working with cleaning chemicals. These safety tips cards were

developed through a partnership with the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) and the NYSDOH Bureau of Toxic Substance Assessment.

- Partnering with the Occupational and Environmental Health Center of Eastern New York, over 200 *Is Your Asthma Work-related?* brochures were provided for distribution at health fairs and educational events.
- Partnering with the Center for Public Health Continuing Education, the WRA Program developed a Public Health Live (PHL) webcast on the recognition and diagnosis of WRA. The webcast was archived for viewing on-demand at http://www.albany.edu/sph/cphce/phl_0614.shtml and has received 240 web hits.
- The work-related asthma PHL was evaluated and received an overall rating of 4.5 (scale 1 strongly disagree to 5 strongly agree) with viewers agreeing that they are now able to describe the symptom patterns suggestive of work-related asthma, perform the appropriate diagnostic evaluation, and list common triggers associated with work-related asthma. Viewers also agreed that they are committed to applying newly acquired knowledge, skills or strategies to change or enhance their practice. The PHL was far reaching, with two-thirds of the viewers outside of New York State. Health educators (23%) and nurses (25%) were the most frequent viewers, emphasizing the need to target future outreach to these groups. Only 8% of the viewers were physicians.
- More than 800 health care groups in New York State received information on work-related asthma, including the *Is Your Asthma Work-related?* brochure for distribution at their facilities.
- The NYS Work-related Asthma Program continues to serve as the lead for an occupational health indicator on work-related asthma which can be used by states to help guide priorities for prevention and intervention. The results of the indicator can be found on the CSTE website at: <http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/OHIndicators2/2011OHIndicator21.pdf>