

Wisconsin Fundamental Occupational Health (OH) and Safety Surveillance Program Annual Report of Major Accomplishments and Outcomes: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

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SPECIFIC AIMS

The Wisconsin OH Program remains engaged in advancing surveillance, epidemiology, intervention practice and capacity building. Program aims are similar to the previous grant period and include surveillance of Wisconsin's occupational illness, injury and death; informing Wisconsin residents about occupational illness, injury and death; and acting as a workplace safety and health resource.

MAJOR OUTPUTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Occupational Health Surveillance

Calculated and reported Wisconsin's 2013 occupational health indicators (OHI) data for all 23 indicators to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for publication by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE).

Published an OHI trend report summarizing worker health and safety data for 2003-2012. This report provides a comparative analysis of Wisconsin (WI) occupational health data over time and, when available, to data from other states and national estimates.

Included NIOSH's Industry and Occupation (I/O) questions on the 2016 Wisconsin Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey.

Submitted Wisconsin's 2014 adult blood lead data to NIOSH's Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance (ABLES) Program. Conducted follow-back activities for elevated blood lead levels (BLLs) above 25 µg/dL during 2015-2016 and provided case information to the Wisconsin Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) offices.

Expanding Surveillance and Partnerships

In March 2016, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) became aware of elevated blood lead levels (BLLs) ≥ 5 µg/dL among Fraser Shipyard workers in Superior, WI. Over 100 Wisconsin residents with elevated BLLs were identified. DHS is coordinating with the Minnesota Department of Health and local public health agencies to assess lead exposure and to prevent future exposures.

Occupational Surveillance Advisory Group (OSAG) met in the first half of 2015. Plans for a Fall 2016 OSAG meeting are underway to solicit the group's guidance on multiple aspects of the OH program.

Preliminary analyses of Workers' Compensation data are underway which allow identification of trends and emerging issues in work-related injuries.

Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer Dr. Debora Weiss participated in a NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) at a Coffee Roasting Company in Milwaukee, WI in March, 2016.

The OH program continues collaborative efforts with the environmental public health tracking (EPHT) program to incorporate adult blood lead data into existing portals.

Other – Changes in Key Personnel

Epidemiologist/Program Manager Barbara Grajewski joined the staff 5/31/16. She is an occupational epidemiologist and Captain, United States Public Health Service (ret.) who previously conducted exposure assessment and etiologic studies at NIOSH.

Reports, Publications and Communications (Also see Table 1)

CSTE OH Success Story in November 2015 described small grants for Wisconsin non-profit organizations to implement community-based occupational health and safety interventions: http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/Occupational_Health_Success_Stories/WISuccessStoryOccHealth1.pdf .

NIOSH E-News submission in June 2016 described the new Wisconsin (WI) Occupational Indicator Trend Report, available at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p4/p45104.pdf>. This report was also featured in a May 2016 Tweet via the WI Department of Health Services Twitter account and uploaded to the CDC's NIOSH Clearinghouse.

In response to the outbreak of elevated BLLs at Fraser Shipyard in Superior, WI (see above), fact sheets were developed for healthcare providers (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01293.pdf>) and workers (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01296.pdf>). These fact sheets are available on the Wisconsin ABLES website <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/occupational-health/ables/resources.htm>.

EIS Officer Dr. Debora Weiss is preparing the article "Elevated Blood Lead Levels Associated with Retained Bullets — United States, 2003–2012" for publication.

The updated OH webpage had 262 active sessions and 1190 page views in the past 6 months.

Workgroups

Program staff contributions to the CSTE OH Subcommittee, the CSTE OH Indicator (OHI) Workgroup, and the NIOSH BRFSS I/O Workgroup developed partnerships and collaboration among states.

OUTCOMES

Potential outcomes

Most of the above outputs include dissemination of findings contributing to reduced workplace risks. Collaboration and engagement of Wisconsin's OH program with state and federal agencies as well as professional organizations put partnering into practice and increased coordination among agencies.

Increased partner awareness of the OH program was accomplished through presentations, meetings and collaboration. Presentation of the 2013 BRFSS I/O data analysis at the Wisconsin Division of Public Health's Seminar in October 2015 showcased our ability to study the potential impact of work on a person's health. Follow-up activities suggest that occupational information is of increasing value and interest to the staff of programs not related directly to occupational safety and health.

The OH program website increased public knowledge of Wisconsin's occupational illness and health.

Analysis of Workers' Compensation enhanced data provided opportunities for additional collaboration with state agencies to consult on data quality improvement and further analyses.

Intermediate outcomes

OSHA regularly monitors Wisconsin businesses based on ABLES elevated BLL reports. Analysis of 2016 ABLES data identified a significant outbreak of elevated BLLs in a WI shipyard.

End (long-term) outcomes

OH Program activities contributed to an increased capacity among local/tribal health departments and community partners to collectively address work-related concerns. Current indicator data show stable or decreasing rates of most occupational injuries and illnesses in Wisconsin, but some indicators are higher than the national average. The program will continue to monitor trends in OH indicator data and work with partners to prevent future work-related injuries and illnesses in Wisconsin.

Table 1 Conferences and Presentations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event/Description</i>
7/21/2015	Institute of Medicine Environmental Health Roundtable strategic planning meeting: occupational health (OH) coordination and interagency projects (fracking exposures).
7/23/2015	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Radiation Worker Compensation Advisory Board site reviews
8/25/2015	Tracking Grantees meeting/planning for adding Occupational Health Indicators (OHI)
9/15/2015	NIOSH Occupational Lung Disease workshop
9/18/2015	Indian health legal conference – mining health issues
9/22/2015	Population health lecture in air pollution course – asbestos disease
9/29/2015	Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) Environmental and occupational health policy committee meeting
10/6/2015	North Woods Occupational Health Conference – mesothelioma presentation
10/8/2015	BRFSS Industry and Occupation (I/O) presentation at WI Division of Public Health Epidemiology Data Seminar
10/19/2015	Collegium Ramazzini annual meeting – International occupational health surveillance
10/29/2015	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Environmental Health partners meeting
11/12/2015	Occupational Asthma lecture for Population Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin
11/18/2015	NIOSH Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health, radiation dose reconstruction
12/1/2015	NIOSH Partners meeting/CSTE OH Subcommittee meeting
12/3/2015	Marshfield National Farm Medicine Center meeting
12/11/2015	Heartland Center agricultural health advisory board meeting
1/7/2016	Midwest Consortium for hazardous waste worker training annual meeting
1/26/2016	Summit on Environmental and Occupational Hazards
2/17/2016	Pollen summit – outdoor worker exposures
3/10/2016	National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Manufacturing council meeting
5/3/2016	Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Conference occupational poster, presentations
5/24/2016	Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) conference – occupational mini-grants
6/19/2016	CSTE Annual Meeting/ NIOSH Partners Meeting/CSTE OH Meeting: Elevated Blood Lead Levels Associated with Retained Bullets, United States, 2003–2012