Supplemental Information

Occupational Exposure Monitoring Data Collection, Storage, and Use Among State-Based and Private Workers’ Compensation Insurers

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Workers’ Compensation Industrial Hygiene Survey (for State-Based and Private Insurers)

Please provide informed consent.

Title of Study: Evaluation of Workers’ Compensation Insurers’ Industrial Hygiene Data Collection and Storage Practices

Principal Investigator: Michael Bisesi, PhD

This survey is being conducted as part of a research study through The Ohio State University. The purpose is to determine what industrial hygiene data is collected and how it is stored by workers’ compensation insurers. We are asking members of the American Association of State Compensation Insurance Funds (AASCIF) to participate [for state-based insurers]/We are asking several private insurers to participate [for private insurers].

Your participation is voluntary and you may discontinue participation at any time. You may or may not benefit as a result of participating in this study. There are no costs to you for participating in the study and you will not be paid to participate. This is a one time study that requires no follow-up participation.

The results of the survey may be reported or published. The survey does not ask for your personal information. The unique ID number provided to your insurance company will be recorded for administrative purposes but will not be published [for private insurers only]. Your company’s name will not be published. Additionally, only study staff will have access to the survey results.

For questions or concerns about the study, you may contact Taylor Shockey, the study co-investigator at [phone number redacted].

1. I have read this page and am aware that I am being asked to participate in a research study. I voluntarily agree to this study. I am not giving up my legal rights by agreeing to this form. Please select yes if you agree to the terms. Please select no if you do not agree to the terms.

* Answer Choices
  + Yes
  + No

1. [For private insurers] Please type the unique user ID provided in the email that included the link to the survey. [For state-based insurers] Please provide your company’s address.
2. Does your organization provide industrial hygiene services to policyholders? [Select all that apply]

* Answer Choices
  + YES, our own employees conduct noise monitoring
  + YES, our own employees conduct air sampling
  + YES, a 3rd party contractor that we pay conducts noise monitoring
  + YES, a 3rd party contractor that we pay conducts air sampling
  + NO, we do not provide any industrial hygiene services [With this answer choice, you have completed the survey – please scroll to the bottom of the page and click “Done”]

1. Please read each of the following questions and provide the number of employees within your organization that fit the description

* Answer Choices
  + What is the number of certified industrial hygienists (CIHs) whose primary duty is IH monitoring?
  + What is the number of generalists or non-certified industrial hygienists whose primary duty is IH monitoring?
  + What is the number of certified industrial hygienists (CIHs) whose primary duty is NOT IH monitoring?

1. Does your organization have a standardized data collection form or list of data elements that must be collected when performing industrial hygiene monitoring? If YES, then select all of the following data elements that are required to be collected.

* Answer Choices
  + NO, we do not have a standardized data collection form or list of data elements that must be collected
  + Date
  + Company Name
  + ID/Policy Number
  + Job Title (of person being monitored)
  + Industry and/or Occupation Code (e.g. U.S. Census Bureau job codes, NAICs codes, etc)
  + Job Location
  + Specific Equipment Operated by Monitored Workers
  + Personal Protective Equipment Used
  + Engineering Controls in Place
  + Work/Task Description
  + Exposure Duration (e.g. number of hours per day)
  + Exposure Frequency (e.g. daily, weekly, etc.)
  + Number of Similarly Exposed Employees
  + Weather Conditions
  + Sampling Equipment/Type
  + Sampling Method
  + Analytical Technique
  + Analyte Monitored (e.g. noise, lead, silica)
  + Sample Time
  + Flow Rate
  + Total Volume
  + Calibration Performed
  + Results (e.g. TWA, STEL, Dose, Average SPL, Peak, etc.)
  + Other (please specify)

1. How does your organization store the collected industrial hygiene data? [Select all the apply]

* Answer Choices
  + In a database, filed as individual Word documents, PDFs, scanned images, etc.
  + In a database, with data elements entered into Excel, Microsoft Access, etc.
  + We don’t retain any industrial hygiene data after passing it along to our policy holders [With this answer choice, you have completed the survey – please scroll to the bottom of the page and click “Done”]
  + Other (please specify)

1. Which of the following ways has your organization’s industrial hygiene data been used by its own employees for purposes internal to your organization or policyholders? [Select all that apply]

* To create reports on usage of IH services
* In conjunction with claims data to determine the association between IH exposure and claims data
* To examine trends in exposure (e.g. noise, lead, silica, etc.) by industry/occupation
* To evaluate the effectiveness of safety programs or control measures implemented by your organization
* To supply reports and/or recommendations to policyholders after IH monitoring has been performed at their worksite

1. Has your organization’s industrial hygiene data ever been used by outside people or agencies (e.g. people affiliated with academic institutions, government agencies, etc.) for research purposes?

* Answer Choices
  + Yes
  + No

Evaluation of Workers’ Compensation Insurers’ Industrial Hygiene Data Collection and Storage Practices

A Brief Survey to Understand What Data is “Out There” Among Insurers

* Industrial hygiene monitoring provides valuable data on worker exposure to chemical and biological agents as well as information on workplace conditions in need of improvement.
* Many state-based and private insurers that offer workers’ compensation insurance provide industrial hygiene (IH) services to their customers.
* Because insurers collect different IH data and store it in different ways, The Ohio State University is attempting to determine:
  + What types of IH services does your company provide?
  + How many hygienists does your company employ?
  + Does your company use a standardized data collection form?
  + What IH data elements (i.e. exposure duration, sampling method, job title) does your company collect?
  + How does your company save/store the IH data?
  + How does your company put the IH data to use?
* This research project asks insurers to fill out an eight question survey (5-10 minutes to complete) in order to help answer the above questions.
* No personal information is required and company name is kept confidential – so no recorded answers will be linked back to a specific person or company in any subsequent reports, etc.
* The answers you provide in the survey will bridge a large knowledge gap and help work towards improving data collection and storage methods in the future.

THANK YOU!

Interested in the project? Have questions?

Please contact:

Taylor Shockey [phone number redacted]