

In the qualitative study, 17 persons from workplaces with RTW programs were interviewed. Sessions were tape recorded, the tapes transcribed and coded based for 'barriers to' and 'facilitators of' successful RTW. Workplace factors affecting RTW included the origins, composition and management of RTW programs, physical factors related to work and the production process, communication within the workplace and the overall organizational climate. Throughout, careful consideration of the collective agreement and full involvement of labor in the creation, coordination and problem-solving of the RTW program were regarded as important.

Session: C1.0

Title: Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention

Category: Special Session

Organized by David Hard, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Moderator(s): David Hard

C1.1 Overview of the NIOSH Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative—Hard DL, Castillo DN, Myers JR, Pizatella TJ, Olenchok SA

In 1996 the report *Children in Agriculture: Opportunities for Safety and Health—A National Action Plan* was released by the National Committee for Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention. The National Action Plan (NAP) generated "specific, targeted recommendations for research, education, policy, and evaluation, with the goal of reducing unintentional agricultural injuries to children younger than 18 years." The plan specifically recommended that NIOSH assume leadership for coordinating efforts to implement this action plan at the federal level. Due in large part to the awareness and concern raised by this report about the childhood agricultural injury issue, NIOSH received a congressional appropriation of \$5 million in fiscal year (FY) 1997 and through the present year for implementing this Initiative.

The NIOSH Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative builds upon previous NIOSH research and objectives, as well as recommended action steps in the NAP. In implementing the Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative, NIOSH has assumed a leadership role by identifying, funding and developing quality childhood agricultural injury prevention activities. Due to efforts by NIOSH and its extramural partners, progress is being achieved. Thirteen extramural research proposals specific to childhood agricultural safety and health research have been completed and new grants were solicited in FY 2000 to conduct additional research in this area. A national surveillance plan for childhood agricultural injuries is being developed and implemented by NIOSH. An extramural partner has also developed a model for training professionals in childhood agricultural injury prevention approaches. Finally, the important issue of being able to turn research findings into

action and serve as a resource for injury professionals working with this specific target population is addressed by another extramural partner, the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (NCCRAHS), located at the Marshfield Medical Research and Education Foundation in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

C1.2 NIOSH Approach to Childhood Agricultural Injury Surveillance—Myers JR

NIOSH began the Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention initiative in the fall of 1997 to implement the recommendations developed by the National Committee for Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention (NCCAIP). One NCCAIP recommendation is for surveillance specific to childhood agricultural injuries. A major issue for childhood farm injuries is the number of special populations (e.g., youth workers, minority children, youth visiting farms). Because of these special populations, no single surveillance method provides adequate information for all youth. NIOSH is evaluating different surveillance approaches for these special populations. Farm operator surveys are proposed for the surveillance of youth living on, or visiting farms, and youth directly hired by the farmer. A general farm operator survey has been completed, and a second survey targeting minority farmers is planned. A personal interview survey is ongoing to assess injuries to young minority farm workers, and the children of minority farm workers. A national hospital emergency department surveillance system is also being evaluated for assessing youth farm injuries. The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and death certificates will be used to assess fatal injuries. These methods will be used by NIOSH to develop an ongoing periodic surveillance approach for childhood agricultural injuries.

C1.3 Agricultural Disability Awareness and Risk Education (AgDARE)—Reed DB, Kidd PS, Rayens MK, Westneat SC

Introduction: Adolescent farm workers continue to be at high risk for work-related injury and death. An agricultural safety curriculum using narrative and physical simulations was developed and tested in this three year NIOSH sponsored intervention project.

Method: Using a quasi-experimental crossover design, 22 high schools in Kentucky, Iowa, and Mississippi were assigned to a treatment or control group. All enlisted agriculture students (n=1,127) completed surveys that included questions about farm residency, farm work, and occupational exposures to machinery, noise, and dust. Each student received pre and post tests on safety attitude and safety behavior. The treatment schools received two days of class instruction using the developed curriculum. Instruction was delivered by the research team at two separate times of



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ABSTRACTS

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