

D6.2 The Prevalence and Risk Factors Related to Falls During Pregnancy—Dunning K, Lemasters G, Bhattacharya A, Levin L

Introduction: Although falls during pregnancy are a common cause of injury, there is minimal information regarding risk factors. During pregnancy, physiological changes occur that increase the risk for falls such as weight gain, loosening of ligaments resulting in joint laxity, swelling, and mechanical loading changes. At this time, there is no surveillance system for the pregnant worker and, therefore, little is known about their injuries. The purpose of this pilot study was to determine the prevalence rate and risk factors of falls during pregnancy.

Methods: A questionnaire was designed to determine pregnancy fall rate, injuries and medical attention, and risk factors. In order to capture a larger portion of the sample, two methods of questionnaire administration were utilized that include a 15 minute telephone interview and a four page mail survey. In partnership with the Hamilton County General Health District and the Cincinnati Health Department, 700 recent new mothers were identified from their child's birth certificate.

Results: To date, the participation rate is 61.2% (n=429) including 222 by telephone and 207 by mail. Most women, 76.4% (n=328) were employed during pregnancy and of those employed, the fall rate at work was 6.4% (21/328). Overall, 23.8% (102/429) of women reported a fall during pregnancy. When asked the location of their most serious fall, 12.7% (13/102) described their workplace. The highest number of falls (70%) occurred during 6-8 months of gestation. Of the women who fell, 68.6% (70/102) reported injuries and 37.2% (38/102) sought medical attention. Primary factors that the women related to their falls included stairs, a hurried pace, and walking on a slippery surface.

Conclusion: Given that 70% of women over age 20 work during their pregnancy and 6.4% will have a fall while working, there is a need to reduce risks of falls and injuries for this special population.

D6.3 Fatal Occupational Injuries Among Hispanic Workers of Texas—Mireles MC, Richardson S, Herrmann K

This descriptive study examined fatal occupational injuries among Hispanic workers in Texas from 1993 to 1997. For that period, the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, which is administered in Texas by the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission, provided a comprehensive data set of 2,451 occupational fatality cases in the state, of which 671 (27%) cases involved Hispanic workers. Calculation of crude fatality rates was based on estimated Hispanic workforce from the Current Population Survey. Coding of injuries was standardized by the use of the Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System.

The mean age for Hispanic fatal cases was 37, compared to 43 for non-Hispanic cases. Among Hispanic fatalities, wage and salary workers comprised 86% of the total number of fatalities. Specifically, construction laborers represented 30% of the cases. However, a comparison of crude fatality rates by industry showed the highest risk of 58/100,000 for Hispanic workers in mining, followed by 20/100,000 in construction, and 16/100,000 in agriculture. By occupation, operators, fabricators, and laborers cumulatively represented 45% of Hispanic cases, but workers in occupations related to farming, forestry, and fishing had the highest annual average rate of 15/100,000.

Events classified as "highway incidents" accounted for the greatest number of Hispanic fatalities (34%), but the most frequent event attributable to deaths on the job (10%) involved firearms. Being struck by a falling object was the second most frequent event of fatalities (6%). Assaults and violent acts remain a major concern for Hispanic workers, especially women, in the retail trade industry.

D6.4 Reducing Injury Risk of Students in Vocational-technical Schools and Young Workers in Small Businesses—Palassis J, Sweeney Haring M

NIOSH estimates that in USA each year 200,000 adolescent workers suffer work-related injuries. Many States mandate that vocational schools and small businesses have safety and health programs, conduct hazard analysis, and do safety inspections, maintenance, and comply with safety, health, and environmental regulations. To address these needs, NIOSH has taken a leading role to reduce injury risk by increasing safety and health awareness and safety education of vocational school students, teachers, administrators, and small businesses owners. NIOSH in conjunction with Environmental Occupational Health Sciences Institute of NJ developed an occupational and environmental safety checklists program. This program contains instructions on how to establish, implement, and maintain an occupational safety, health, and environmental program within the school and small business. It is comprised of over 80 safety checklists that cover occupational and environmental hazards found at schools and especially in the shops and small businesses. The program helps the user prepare for and participate in OSHA- and EPA-type compliance inspections. It enables the users of the checklists to identify occupational safety and health and environmental hazards and areas that need improvement. It can be utilized by the teachers, students and young workers to help them learn about government regulations pertinent to their shop and workplace. The program provides technical assistance, resources, and guidance to ensure that the school is in compliance with occupational safety and health and environmental regulations. The document is being finalized and will be available in print, CD-ROM, and on the NIOSH web site.



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ABSTRACTS

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