

D4.3

Title: *The Evaluation of State-Based Approaches to Workplace Violence Prevention*

Authors: Bowyer ME, Frazer JA

During the 5-year period from 1996 to 2000, there were an average 766 workplace homicides annually in the U.S. In 2001, there were 639 workplace homicides, the lowest number since the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries began in 1992. It is not clear what factors have influenced this reduction and whether it will be sustained in subsequent years. There were an estimated 1.7 million nonfatal workplace victimizations each year from 1993 to 1997, accounting for 18% of all violent crime during the 7-year period.

As the risks for workplace violence have been more completely described and recognized over the last decade, states and other policy-makers have begun to develop statutes, administrative regulations, or technical assistance information for workplace violence prevention. Unfortunately, there have been no rigorous evaluations of the effectiveness of any of the regulatory or other state-based efforts undertaken to date.

NIOSH has conducted an inventory of state-based approaches to workplace violence prevention to serve as a starting point for in-depth evaluations of the various efforts that have been implemented. Preliminary results indicate that there are some states, such as California and Washington, that have mandated requirements for training or other assessment of workplace violence risks, especially in particular high risk settings such as health care or late night retail. Others, such as Michigan, Minnesota, and Connecticut conduct special training programs related to workplace security. Some states (e.g., Indiana, Minnesota, Alaska) have issued general duty clause citations for workplace violence hazards. The availability of data on workplace violence incidents before and after implementation of various efforts or data on comparable areas with and without interventions will dictate the ability to conduct comprehensive evaluations of the various strategies employed by the States.

D4.4

Title: *Workplace Violence Prevention in the Mental Health Setting*

Authors: Lipscomb JA, McPhaul K, Soeken K, Geiger Brown J, Choi M

Significance: Workplace violence is a significant hazard in the healthcare sector. The National Crime Victimization Survey found assaults among mental health workers were four times that of healthcare workers. In 1996, OSHA published "Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Health Care and Social Service Workers". The purpose of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of these guidelines in the in-patient mental health

care setting.

Methods: The OSHA guidelines provided the framework for the intervention in four study facilities while three facilities served as controls. Two measurement tools, a pre-and post- intervention survey and a computerized data system (OIRS) reported assault injuries, were used to evaluate intervention effectiveness one year following program implementation.

Results: Four hundred seventy-six direct care staff completed the pre-intervention survey (94% response rate). At baseline over one quarter of staff reported > 25 threats, and over 50% reported some type of physical injury in the past 12 months. As a group, the OSHA elements were significant predictors of assault ($p < .001$). A high level of management commitment was associated with a reduced odds of violence (OR .32, 95% CI .14 - .75). Work-related variables were significantly related to violence ($p < .001$); 10 of 11 variables entered were retained in the final model. Overall, the model was significant (94.29, $df = 14$, $p < .001$); these predictors explained 39% of the variance in violence directed workers in these cross-sectional data. A comparison of pre- and post-intervention survey and OIRS data is underway and will be presented.

Conclusion: Though the OSHA guidelines were published in 1996, to the best of our knowledge, this NYS project is the first to evaluate their effectiveness in health care. Direct care staff involvement in identifying and implementing violence prevention strategies is anticipated to improve overall workplace health and safety.

Session: D5.0

Title: *Special Populations: Injuries Among Youth and Hispanics*

Moderator: Dawn Castillo

D5.1

Title: *Preventing Youth Worker Fatalities*

Authors: Tierney JM, Higgins DN, Hanrahan LP, Washburn MJ

This presentation describes the Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program and summarizes in-depth data collected on 59 young worker fatalities in 26 states. These investigations were conducted between May 1986 and February 2002.

Young workers ranged in age from 9 to 17 years, with a mean age of 15.28 years; 21 were working in the agriculture/forestry fishing industry, 12 in construction, 10 in manufacturing, 8 in services and 8 in the retail industry. The majority worked as laborers. Ninety-three percent were male.

Each investigation resulted in the formulation and dissemina-