



Eliminating Health and Safety Disparities at Work

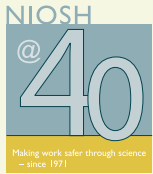
Community Health Workers in Occupational Health

Linda Forst, University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health
Forst-L@uic.edu

Eric Rodriguez, Elisa Ringholm, Adam Kader, Emily Ahonen, Alfreda Holloway Beth, Maria Gutierrez, Joseph Zandoni

Community health workers serve and come from populations that experience health inequities. CHWs have roles of connecting their peers to health related services, providing peer education related to prevention, and serving as liaisons between health researchers and their communities. In Occupational Health, the CHW model has developed in parallel, starting with promotores de salud among migrant farm workers, and peer trainers in many other worker populations. Low wage and immigrant workers are subject to inequities similar to underserved, community based populations in the forms of increased risk, poor access to appropriate health care and rehabilitation services, and worse outcomes after a work-related injury. We present a case study of worker leaders in the construction sector, which has a significant proportion of Hispanic and other immigrant workers. Construction workers are subject to conditions that can result in severe, disabling, and fatal injuries, and Hispanics and foreign born workers are at particular risk. Worker leaders, trained to deliver a course that covers the OSHA 10-hour construction health and safety curriculum, play the role of Community Health Worker (educator) for their peers. Parallels are drawn between worker leaders in this study and CHWs that address general health issues in at-risk populations.

Sponsored by

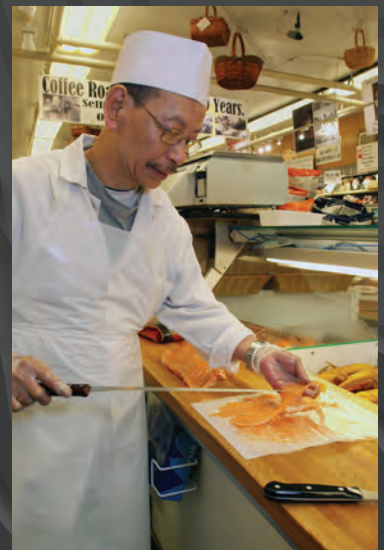


First national conference on Eliminating Health and Safety Disparities at Work

Co-sponsored by



Photos courtesy of Earl Dotter.



Chicago, Illinois • September 14–15, 2011