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**Presentation Type:** Breakout Presentation

**Title:** Occupational health surveillance in New Hampshire: Using the BRFSS to better understand work as a factor in health

**Committee:** Occupational Health Sub-Committee

**Topic:** Improving occupational health surveillance

**Keywords:** Occupational Surveillance | Behavioral health | Injury surveillance

**Background:**

The New Hampshire Occupational Health Surveillance Program (OHSP) has been exploring non-traditional avenues to gather work-related injury data, such as population-based health surveys. In 2008, workplace injury questions were included in the NH BRFSS survey. The results indicated that nearly 5 percent of respondents had reported work-related injuries requiring medical advice or treatment in the past 12 months. A majority of workers employed for wages and with an injury were likely eligible for workers' compensation benefits. About half (54%) reported their treatment was paid all, or in part, by workers' compensation. Other national and state data sources report much lower rates per 100 full-time equivalent workers. Many studies have suggested, however, that these numbers are underestimates because many injured workers do not file for workers' compensation when injured at work. This pilot initiative demonstrates that the BRFSS survey can be a useful tool in occupational health surveillance. Research has shown that socio-economic variables can impact a person's health status and health behaviors. However, the relationships between employment variables such as occupation and industry to health status and health behaviors have not been fully evaluated.

**Methods:**

Analyze and evaluate the relationship between occupations and industries and health status, prevalence of chronic disease, health behaviors (alcohol and tobacco use) and other health determinants such as obesity and sleep. Identify the occupations and industries associated with poor health status, risky health behaviors and other health determinants such as obesity and lack of sleep. Use the results and compare these occupations and industries to occupations and industries with high incidence of work-related injuries obtained from the Bureau of the Census County Business Patterns. This data set can be stratified into specific occupations and industries.

**Results:**

The results from our data analysis will enable the NH OHSP to determine if occupations and industries with the highest incidence rates of work-related injury also have higher prevalence of chronic diseases, risky health behaviors and other health determinants such as obesity and lack of sleep.

**Conclusions:**

The results from this study will provide the NH Division of Public Health Services and employers with insights as to what occupations or industries are good candidates for both occupational safety and health interventions and wellness/health promotion initiatives.

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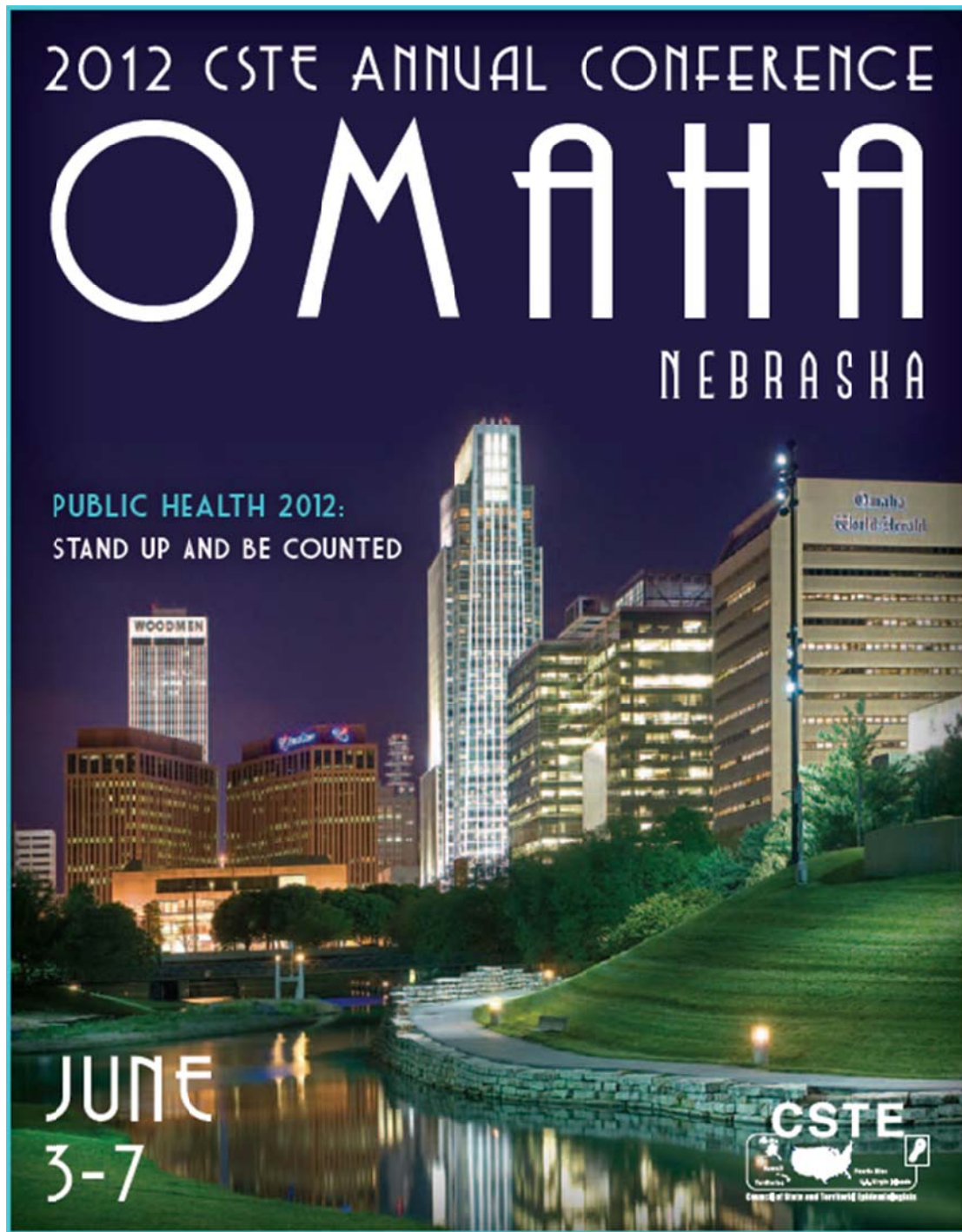
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