# The impact of worker safety training on workers' compensation claims in construction

## Effectiveness of OSHA Outreach Training on carpenters' work-related injury rates, Washington state 2000-2008

*Ashley Schoenfisch, Hester Lipscomb, Clayton Sinyai, and Darrin Adams. CPWR Report; American Journal of Industrial Medicine, October 2016.*

## Overview

Although safety training is one of the more frequently recommended interventions for work-related injury prevention, few studies have explored the impact of safety training on injury outcomes. The researchers examined a 9-year dynamic cohort of 17,106 union carpenters in Washington State, accounting for nearly 100 million work-hours. Using records of OSHA Outreach Training ("OSHA 10," "OSHA 30," "OSHA 500," and "OSHA 502") and workers' compensation claims, the research team explored the relationship between OSHA Outreach Training and work-related injury rates.

## Key Findings

- OSHA Outreach Training resulted in a 13% reduction in injury rates, though this finding was not statistically significant.
- The protective effect was more pronounced for carpenters in their apprenticeship years, drywall installers, and with increasing time since training.
- Safety training is an important element in a comprehensive occupational safety and health management program, but should not be considered a substitute for controls that design out or guard against the hazard.
- Direct workers' compensation costs per hour of work were substantially lower among workers who had received OSHA Outreach Training in the previous five years. However, this difference in cost rates likely reflects more than an effect of training (e.g., other safety-forward practices of the hiring employers).

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