

Board 4 - Partnership, research, and evaluation to advance health, well-being, and health equity in the mining industry

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Tuesday, November 8, 2022



3:00 PM - 4:00 PM



BCEC - Exhibit Hall A, PS Area 3

Session: Poster: Supporting our workers**Program:** Occupational Health and Safety

Abstract

Need

Workers in the mining industry experience disproportionately higher health and safety risks relative to other industries and occupations. They face myriad hazardous exposures, difficult working conditions, and work-related stressors. They also demonstrate disproportionately poorer health outcomes. Research suggests that mining has among the highest rates of injury, cumulative strain, musculoskeletal disorders, and respiratory illnesses relative to other industries. Research also shows that miners have higher rates of mental distress, depression, suicide, substance misuse, and drug overdose.

Strategic Response & Goals

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health launched the Miner Health Program (MHP) as long-term, strategic effort to holistically understand and improve the health and well-being of miners. Conceptually informed by Total Worker Health® and ecological systems frameworks, the MHP examines the impact of workplace prevention and intervention strategies on worker health.

Mining industry partners have prioritized workplace prevention to address workers' mental health and substance misuse. Mining faces unique and more pronounced challenges than other industries including reduced help-seeking cultures, stigma, remote locations, and restricted health benefits.

The MHP is expanding its research portfolio to work with industry to assess

workforce needs, current workplace practices, identify gaps, and evaluate prevention strategies. Critical early needs include identifying promising practices to reduce stigma related to worker mental health and substance misuse and to strengthen workers' engagement in workplace prevention efforts. While there is limited evaluation of workplace mental health and substance misuse strategies in mining, evidence is emerging from similar industries and other countries to inform MHP research and evaluation .

Session Outcomes

In this roundtable session, MHP researchers and a union partner will engage participants in sharing ideas, strategies, and lessons learned. This dialogue and exchange will be mutually beneficial and supportive of systems thinking, innovation, and cross-industry collaboration.

Presenter

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