

competencies are designed to be general, portable to all jobs and industries, compatible with existing work readiness initiatives, and transferable to other settings where risk-based decisions are made. The NIOSH Core Competencies are currently delivered to middle school and high school students through the Youth@Work-Talking Safety curriculum from NIOSH and its partners. Talking Safety is a free, fun, and interactive curriculum customized for all U.S. states and several territories, and is available in Spanish. Talking Safety is updated regularly and has been downloaded more than 30,000 times from the NIOSH website since 2015. The curriculum is currently being adapted for contingent workers in the construction sector.

SSRW investigators conduct research on, and support activities related to, the delivery of foundational workplace safety and health knowledge and skills, including through the Talking Safety curriculum, to young, contingent, and other high-risk workers. The evidence base for Talking Safety is being established through two large intervention/implementation studies in Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Oklahoma City Public Schools. Approximately 18,000 students have received Talking Safety as a part of SSRW research. Results have shown that students demonstrated statistically significant increases in workplace safety knowledge, attitude, norms, self-efficacy, and behavioral intention after instruction.⁶

Examples of the public health impact of the program include the Employment and Training Administration, within the U.S. Department of Labor, integrating the NIOSH competencies as part of the “Health and Safety” building block in their Generic Building Blocks Competency Model. These models are widely used by the workforce development sector to identify employers’ skills needs. As an outgrowth of SSRW partnerships, the states of Oklahoma and Texas passed laws promoting OSH training for youth while in middle school and high school; 13 more states are in the pipeline. The American Federation of Teachers (AFT)—with 1.7 million members in more than 3,000 local affiliates nationwide—passed a resolution to protect Next-Gen Workers by promoting the use of the Talking Safety curriculum. Finally, Talking Safety has been adopted and adapted by NIOSH Global partner SESI (Serviço Social da Indústria) for use in schools in Southern Brazil.

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H-15

NIOSH—Small Business Assistance Program

Brenda Jacklitsch (NIOSH)

There are approximately six million workplaces in the U.S. that have employees. Eighty-nine percent of them have fewer than 20 employees, and 79% have fewer than 10 employees. Although not clearly illustrated in national injury and illness statistics, several studies show the smaller a business is, the more likely workers are to experience injuries, illnesses and fatalities. Smaller businesses engage in fewer occupational safety and health activities than larger businesses for various reasons, and there is a clear need for delivering occupational safety and health assistance.

The mission of the NIOSH Small Business Assistance Program is to decrease occupational diseases, injuries, and fatalities in smaller businesses by encouraging and supporting research, outreach, and

prevention activities. The Small Business Assistance Program activities include: (a) researching the work environment in small businesses and the barriers to prevent workplace illness, injury, and death; (b) researching the role of intermediaries (such as insurance companies, trade associations, and chambers of commerce) and the best way to partner with them to connect with small businesses; (c) conducting outreach by giving presentations to small business groups; (d) fostering international collaborations with other small business safety and health leaders through large scientific conferences and informal networking; and (e) collaborating and providing support (such as translation or outreach) to other NIOSH programs and outside partners that do research that may be helpful to small businesses.

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H-16

NIOSH—Oil and Gas Extraction Program

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During 2018, the oil and gas extraction industry, which is comprised of oil and gas operators, drilling contractors, and well service companies, employed approximately 470,000 workers. During 2003–2017, 1,566 oil and gas extraction workers were killed on the job, resulting in an annual fatality rate more than six times higher than the rate among all U.S. workers. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health’s (NIOSH) Oil and Gas Extraction Program works with partners in industry, trade associations, professional organizations, government, academia, and labor to improve the health and well-being of oil and gas extraction workers. Traditionally, the program has sought to reduce or eliminate injuries, illnesses, and fatalities through epidemiologic surveillance, identifying and characterizing physical and chemical exposure hazards, developing and evaluating engineering controls, and disseminating high-impact communication products. Recently, the NIOSH Oil and Gas Extraction Program has recognized the need to expand the program’s research to examine work organization factors, especially as they relate to fatigue, prescription and illicit drugs, and substance use/misuse in the industry. Oil and gas extraction activities often involve physical labor; occur around the clock and often in remote locations; outside in all weather conditions; and with employees and contractors from multiple employers working simultaneously. In addition, employees often work a 12-hour shift for two weeks at a time and, when working, may live in temporary or shared housing at or near the well site making quality sleep difficult. The need to address these and other workplace factors has culminated in the development of a new intermediate goal in the NIOSH Strategic Plan that addresses fatigue, work organization, and substance use/misuse in the oil and gas extraction industry. The purpose of this poster presentation is threefold; (1) to inform partners of the expanded research into work organization factors in the oil and gas extraction industry, (2) solicit information related to that new line of research, and (3) identify potential collaborative research partners to address these research needs.

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