

Abstract #: 292

Presented by: Michele Gazica, JD, Graduate Student

The Distinctiveness of Safety Climate and Violence Prevention Climate

Michele Gazica, Paul Spector, University of South Florida, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Psychology, Sunshine ERC

Keywords: violence prevention climate safety climate

Objective: The purpose of this study was twofold: (1) to confirm the distinctiveness of safety climate and violence prevention climate, and (2) to explore the relationships between and among the two climate constructs, domain-specific motivation and compliance, and related safety and well-being outcomes.

Methods: Participants consisted of 423 college students employed for at least 20 hours a week, all of whom were recruited from the USF Department of Psychology human subjects pool. Each participant completed a host of survey measures, including violence prevention and safety climate, exposure to workplace accidents, aggression, and interpersonal conflict, and job satisfaction. This study employed a variety of statistical analyses to test study-related hypotheses, including correlation, multiple regression, and exploratory factor analyses.

Results: The data support that the two climate constructs are distinct, albeit related, constructs. The data further revealed that each of safety climate and violence prevention climate had differential relationships with the study's outcome variables.

Conclusion: Overall, the results of this study suggest that while safety climate variables might be the most influential predictors of various workplace health and safety outcomes, violence prevention variables do add some predictive validity in certain circumstances, but perhaps not necessarily in the way that theory suggests. The results of this study might further suggest these two climate constructs share a common factor that may predict relevant safety outcomes better than either construct alone.

Research supported by: USF Sunshine ERC

Abstract #: 293

Presented by: Amie Gimon, MS, Graduate Student

Encouraging Personal Protective Equipment and Social Acceptance

Amie Gimon, Dr. Helen Conlon, Dr. Candace Burns, University of South Florida, College of Nursing

Keywords: personal protective equipment, compliance, social pressures review of literature

Objective: Encouraging employees to comply with the safety professional's recommendations for PPE use may be difficult due to social pressures, perceived risk of exposure, reduction in efficiency, lack of enforcement and equipment discomfort. Both in nursing practice and industry, PPE may be the only method to prevent injury or disease. Research has indicated that most employees feel that training in PPE is appropriate. Job performance, PPE comfort level and examples of PPE compliance by more experienced workers affected PPE compliance use. For the purposes of this poster, emptying surgical drains in the hospital setting and mask, goggle and glove use in the agricultural setting will be used as examples. Research and/or modifications to equipment is needed to address alternatives to increase compliance with PPE use.

Methods: Literature review

Results: In both the agricultural and healthcare settings, research indicates that PPE may not be utilized at all times based on perceived level of risk. If workers are omitting PPE due to social pressures or perceived low risk of harm, encouraging new hires and re-educating the established workers as examples to the new hires may change the safety social setting of the industries.

Conclusion: Research and practice needs to: Identify areas where workers perceive low risk of exposure. Identify issues that limit reporting of body fluid exposure such as surgical drain splash when emptying drain. Develop engineering modifications to surgical drains to eliminate potential exposure. Educate workers on the importance of reporting perceived low risk exposure and reduce social pressures. Re-evaluate productivity requirements in agriculture so that workers will accomplish job duties efficiently while using PPE.

Research supported by: USF Sunshine ERC



Sunshine ERC Research Poster Session 2013

and Interdisciplinary Research Training

in Collaboration with

USF Health Research Day

February 21st – 23rd, 2013