


[What is Public Health?](#)
[Topics & Issues](#)
[Policies & Advocacy](#)
[Publications & Periodicals](#)
[Professional Development](#)
[Events & Meetings](#)
[News & Media](#)
[APHA Communities](#)
[Become a Member](#)
[Home](#) > [Events & Meetings](#) > [Annual Meeting](#) > [Schedule & Program](#)

Online Program

Annual Meeting Recordings are now available for purchase

[Main Menu and Search](#)
[Browse by Day](#)
[Browse by Program](#)
[Author Index](#)
[Affiliation Index](#)
[Disclosure Index](#)
[Personal Scheduler](#)
[Browse Handouts](#)
[Register for the meeting now](#)

302451 Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance of Temporary Help Supply Workers in Washington State



Wednesday, November 19, 2014 : 1:02 PM - 1:18 PM

Michael Foley, MA, Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention (SHARP), Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention (SHARP), Washington State Dept Labor and Industries, Olympia, WA

Elyette Martin, B.A.

Eddy Rauser, B.S.

David Bonauto, MD, MPH, Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention (SHARP) program, Washington State Department of Labor & Industries, Olympia, WA

[Audio \(mp3\) recording](#)
[Recorded Presentation \(mp4\)](#)

Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance of Temporary Help Supply Workers in Washington State

Background: Previous research on the impact of temporary on the risk of worker injury has focused on discrepancies in health outcomes rather than on the causes of the differential. We use the workers' compensation database in Washington State and matched injured worker surveys to conduct occupational health and safety surveillance of the temporary help supply (THS) industry.

Methods: Workers' compensation measures for temporary workers are compared to those of permanent employees working in comparable occupations. We also explore differences between temporary and permanent workers in job experience, specific tasks performed, hazards faced, safety training and equipment, and differences in age and tenure through telephone interviews with recently injured temporary and permanent workers, matched by workplace and demographic characteristics. Interviews also covered ways to reduce injuries to workers and suggestions for how best to deliver educational material.

Results: Workers who are employed by temporary agencies have a higher claims rate and more lost workdays per 100 FTEs than do their permanently employed counterparts, controlling for industry. Surveys show that temporary workers were less likely to have been asked about their expertise before the assignment. They rated the quality of safety training received from the client employer to be less adequate than that reported by their permanent counterparts. Discrepancies suggestive of higher risk for temporary workers were found as well for frequency of training, adequacy of supervision and whether they could refuse tasks they deemed to be unsafe. We found mixed evidence of discrepancy in level of hazard exposure.

Learning Areas:

Occupational health and safety

Learning Objectives:

Compare workers' compensation claims rate outcomes by industrial sector for temporary help workers relative to their standard-employment peers. Differentiate the relative importance of several factors believed to be responsible for the disparity in health outcomes between temporary and standard-employment workers from the perspective of workers who have experienced a lost-workday injury.

Keyword(s): Occupational Health and Safety, Data Collection and Surveillance

Presenting author's disclosure statement:

Qualified on the content I am responsible for because: For the past four years I have been the co-investigator on a federally-funded grant to study the causes of the disproportionately high rate of injury among temporary help supply workers and to develop strategies to address these risk factors.

Any relevant financial relationships? No

I agree to comply with the American Public Health Association Conflict of Interest and Commercial Support Guidelines, and to disclose to the participants any off-label or experimental uses of a commercial product or service discussed in my presentation.

Back to: 5184.0: [Precarious work: day laborers and temp workers](#)



PH Jobs

SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH
DONATE TO APHA

[Home](#) | [Topics and Issues](#) | [Policies and Advocacy](#) | [Publications and Periodicals](#) | [Professional Development](#) | [Events and Meetings](#) |
[News and Media](#) | [APHA Communities](#) | [Become a Member](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Site Map](#) |

2014 © American Public Health Association