

# OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES IN THE COLORADO CRAFT BREWING INDUSTRY: AN ANALYSIS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS

Colleen Brents, John Rosecrance

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado

**Introduction:** Over the past five years, the number of craft breweries in Colorado grew over 120%. As of 2019, Colorado had the second greatest number of craft breweries in the US. Increased occupational injuries accompanied this overall industry expansion. Per the Colorado Workers' Compensation Act, businesses with more than one employee are legally required to provide workers' compensation insurance to cover the costs of occupational injuries. Information from workers' compensation data can provide insight into common injuries affecting an industry. The purpose of this study was to characterize injuries affecting Colorado craft brewery workers by analysing the accident narratives of workers' compensation claims data.

**Methods:** A five-year (2013 –2018) history of Colorado craft brewery workers' compensation claims data was analysed. Researchers partnered with Pinnacle Assurance to obtain workers' compensation data. Descriptive analysis of craft brewery injury claims was performed. Accident narratives were coded for specific work activity to further characterize occupational injuries.

**Results:** Of the 571 claims identified during the study period (July 2013 to June 2018), the majority of injuries by nature were contusions (27%), strains (19%) and lacerations (19%). Specific work activities associated with contusions involved product handling and packaging (37%). Work activities largely associated with lacerations were cleaning and maintenance tasks (49%). Handling product, packaging, and production work activities were associated with the majority (63%) of strain injuries.

**Conclusions:** The present study identified contusions, lacerations, and strains as the most common nature of injury affecting Colorado craft brewery workers. Practitioners and researchers can use workers' compensation data to help target and develop interventions to reduce occupational injuries. Work activity details extrapolated from accident narratives assist in targeting effective intervention strategies.

This study was supported by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Mountain and Plains Education and Research Center, grant number 254-2012-M-52941. The content is the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIOSH.

The University of Utah  
NORA Symposium

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# UTAHNORA

Abstract  
Booklet | 2020



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH  
DEPARTMENT OF  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational &  
Environmental Health (RMCOEH)



Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

18<sup>th</sup> Annual NORA Symposium Schedule  
Friday, April 17, 2020

7:45	-	8:00	Sign-in
8:00	-	8:15	<i>WELCOME</i> Andrew S. Merryweather, University of Utah

**Session 1 – Workplace Injury and Injury Prevention**

		<b><u>Colleen Brents</u></b>
8:15		<i>Occupational injuries in the Colorado craft brewing industry: an analysis of workers' compensation claims</i>
		<b><u>Bethany Boggess Alcauter</u></b>
8:30		<i>Uninvestigated fatal workplace injuries in the U.S</i>
		<b><u>Monika Mioskowska</u></b>
8:45		<i>Wearable Assistive Device for Active Slip-Induced Fall Prevention during Human Walking</i>

**Session 2 – Workplace Health and Industrial Hygiene**

		<b><u>Jarom Kuhre, Brent Shepherd, Craig Soelberg, Alex Watts</u></b>
9:00		<i>Health Hazards Assessment at an X-Ray Tube Manufacturer</i>
		<b><u>Keely Latham, Keller Reeves, Raquel Robello, Lindsay Scholl, &amp; Dallas Shi</u></b>
9:15		<i>Health Hazard Analysis at a Hospital</i>
		<b><u>Hyrum Bronson, Madison Ellis, Nicholas Gomez, Amy Loftis</u></b>
9:30		<i>Evaluation of Health Hazards in a Chemical Detergent Manufacturing Facility</i>
		<b><u>Bethany Boggess Alcauter</u></b>
9:45		<i>Chronic kidney disease among agricultural worker patients of federally-qualified health centers</i>
		<b><u>Josh Fullmer, Bruce Niebergall, Derek Sandberg, Logan Web, Marc Mallari</u></b>
10:00		<i>Potential Health Hazards in a Copper Refinery</i>

**Session 3 – Ergonomics and MSDs**

		<b><u>Arippa F</u></b>
10:15		<i>Analysis of Sitting Postural Strategies During a 2-Hour Shift in Office Workers</i>
		<b><u>Molly Hischke</u></b>
10:30		<i>Quantifying trunk posture exposures in vegetable and fruit pickers</i>
		<b><u>Nguyen A</u></b>
10:45		<i>Cue Engagement, Physical Activity, and Pain Level in Office Workers</i>
		<b><u>Kyle Hancock</u></b>
11:00		<i>Integration of ergonomics into continuous improvement programs: case studies proposal</i>