

## Announcements

### National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction — United States, 2014

In 2010, the 9.1 million U.S. construction workers (including self-employed workers) accounted for 7% of the national workforce (1). According to data from 2011, the rate of fatal injuries in construction was the second highest of any U.S. industry (2). Deaths and injuries from falls represent a critical, persistent, yet preventable public health problem. In fact, falls on construction sites are the leading cause of death in the industry (36% in private industry in 2012) (3). Many construction occupations require working in high places and climbing ladders or scaffolds on a daily basis. Many workers in construction trades are required to work from heights almost every day. Nearly 60% of workers in construction production occupations work at heights at least once a month, and many stand or climb on ladders or scaffolds during half of their work time (4). Safe construction requires skilled workers and responsible employers. The leading fatal events in construction are falls related to roofs, scaffolds, and ladders (1).

CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has engaged construction sector stakeholders through a government-labor-management partnership representing state and federal government agencies, professional organizations, trade associations, labor organizations, and private industry to develop a national campaign aimed at construction contractors, onsite supervisors, and workers to address and reduce falls, fall-related injuries, and fall-related fatalities among construction workers. On Workers' Memorial Day, April 28, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and its stakeholders, including NIOSH, will formally announce its sponsorship of a National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction during June 2–6. Additional information is available at <http://www.osha.gov/stopfallsstanddown>.

The Stand-Down is a voluntary event for construction-related employers to speak directly to employees about fall hazards and to reinforce the importance of fall prevention requirements. Modeled on U.S. military programs, the Stand-Down is a part of the national information and media construction falls prevention campaign developed through this partnership. Program sponsors encourage broad engagement and promotion across the United States, including by state agencies and public health practitioners.

#### References

1. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2010 Current Population Survey. Washington, DC: Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor; 2011.
2. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Census of fatal occupational injuries summary, 2011 (preliminary data). Washington, DC: Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor; 2012. Available at <http://bls.gov/news.release/foi.nr0.htm>.

3. Bureau of Labor Statistics. BLS revised 2012 workplace fatality data. Washington, DC: Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor; 2013. Available at <https://www.osha.gov/oshstats/commonstats.html>.
4. Employment and Training Administration. Occupational Information Network (O\*NET), O\*NET OnLine. Work context: physical work conditions. Washington, DC: Employment and Training Administration, US Department of Labor; 2010. Available at [http://www.onetonline.org/find/descriptor/browse/Work\\_Context/4.c.2](http://www.onetonline.org/find/descriptor/browse/Work_Context/4.c.2).

### National Infant Immunization Week

From April 26 through May 3, National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) will focus attention on the role immunization plays in protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases. This year marks the 20th anniversary of both NIIW and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program,\* which provides vaccines at no cost for children who might otherwise not be vaccinated because of their caregiver's inability to pay.

NIIW and VFC were initially created in response to a measles epidemic in which thousands of persons became infected as a result of low vaccination coverage among children aged <2 years (1). Since 1994, hundreds of communities across the country have joined to promote NIIW. Although immunization coverage among children has increased, recent outbreaks of measles and mumps in the United States underscore the importance of maintaining high immunization rates.

Throughout NIIW, local and state health departments, national immunization partners, and health-care professionals will conduct parent-focused events, clinician education activities, and other events to highlight the positive impact of vaccination on the lives of infants and to call attention to immunization achievements. To support these efforts, a variety of promotional and educational materials are available from CDC on the NIIW website (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/index.html>).

NIIW is being observed simultaneously with World Immunization Week† (April 24–30), an initiative of the World Health Organization to promote and advance equity in the use of vaccines. Additionally, the winner of the annual CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award, which recognizes local contributions to public health through work in childhood immunizations, will be announced.

\* Additional information available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/index.html>.

† Additional information available at <http://www.who.int/campaigns/immunization-week/2014/en>.

#### Reference

1. CDC. Public-sector vaccination efforts in response to the resurgence of measles among preschool-aged children—United States, 1989–1991. *MMWR* 1992;41:522–5.