American Indian Alaska Native (AI/AN) Worker Safety and Health

Improving Worker Safety and Health among American Indians/Alaska Natives: Partnership Workshop

Max Kiefer, CDC/NIOSH
Elizabeth Dalsey, CDC/NIOSH

August 17, 2015
Outline

- NIOSH Overview
- AI/AN Initiative
- Tribal Work Force
- Worker Data
- Activities
Every day in the US...

- 9,000 U.S. workers sustain disabling injuries
- 16 die from a work injury
- 137 die from work-related illnesses
Origin of NIOSH

- Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 created OSHA and NIOSH

- U.S. federal agency that conducts research and makes recommendations to prevent worker injury and illness.

NIOSH Mission

To provide leadership in research to prevent work-related illness, injury, disability, and death.
Occupational Safety and Health

- Regulation/Enforcement/Consultation
  - Department of Labor (DOL)
    - Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)
    - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
  - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
    - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
- Research/Recommendations
NIOSH Locations

- Washington, DC
- Atlanta, GA
- Spokane, WA
- Cincinnati, OH
- Morgantown, WV
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Anchorage, AK
- Denver, CO
NIOSH Activities

- Surveillance/Epidemiology
- Field Studies
- Laboratory Studies
- Exposure Measurement
- Control Technology
- Protective Equipment
- Emergency Response
- Training
- Information Dissemination

Photo by Aaron Sussell
Health Hazard Evaluation Program

• Evaluations to determine whether particular workplace exposures, processes or conditions pose a hazard to workers

• Responds to requests from employees, employers, and gov’t agencies

http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/
Information and Guidance

- Journal articles
- Technical reports
- Alerts on hazards for employers & workers
- Web and social media
- Lay materials available in English and Spanish
Partner with AI/AN communities, organizations and partners to provide occupational safety and health (OSH) support.

Objectives

1. Identify priority needs
2. Determine how best to provide OSH support
3. Conduct outreach
AI/AN Population

- AI/AN Population
  - 5.2 million AI/AN alone or in combination
  - 2% of the total population

- Distribution of AI/AN population
  - 41% in the West
  - 17% in the Midwest
  - 33% in the South
  - 10% in the Northeast

566 Federal Recognized Tribes

Source: US Census, 2013
Tribal Workforce

.08% of the US workforce

Tribes often the largest employer in the community.

Limited research on OSH initiatives in Tribal communities.
NIOSH Study: Comparison of injury rates in AI/AN vs other races/ethnicities

- Found that AI/AN injury rates were 42% higher compared to white workers

- AI/AN worker fatality data were combined with other races so not able to compare fatality rates
Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event, AI/AN Workers, 2003-2010

Fatal Occupational Injuries by Industry, AI/AN workers, 2003-2010

Source: BLS, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. Note: Includes fatalities in most frequent (private) industry only (n=251). There were an additional 51 fatalities to AI/AN workers employed by state or federal government.
Fatal Occupational Injuries by State, AI/AN workers, 2003-2010

AI/AN Initiative Activities

- Attend and present at Tribal meetings
- Provide technical assistance
- Conduct outreach
- Promote OSH Surveillance
- Partnership development

National Indian Health Board, Public Health Summit, 2015
Navajo Nation Safety and Health Conference, 2014
Colville Reservation, 2015
Tribal Site Visits

- Partnership development
- Increase understanding of OSH
- Develop a worker safety and health assessment tool

Planned Area Visits

- August 2015: Navajo Nation
- Fall 2015: Oklahoma City Area
- Fall 2015: Portland Area
- Winter 2016: Albuquerque Area
- Spring 2016: Alaska Area
Thank You!