Using WC Systems to Improve Safety

West-ON
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What’s the Point?
WC System Potential

- WC system
  - Claims data + employer exposure/control assessments + infrastructure to reach employers

- Largest US source of occupational injury data
  - *Sole source with both detailed diagnoses (ICD) and cause narrative*

- Millions of claims in some single state databases

- Tremendous potential for prevention purposes

- But largely underutilized…
CWCS Goals

**Surveillance**
- Capacity building
- State WC claim rate data by industry and cause

**Methods Development**
**Partnerships**

**Research**
- Evidence based interventions
- Predictive analytics
- Starting point for burden estimates
Howdy, Partners!

- State WC Bureaus
- WC Organizations
- Private Insurers
- State-Fund Insurers
- Self-Insured Funds
- Self-Insured Private Employers
- Health Care Providers
- Other Organizations
- Academic Researchers
- Unions
State WC Bureaus

- All US states collect WC claims data from employers
  - First and subsequent reports of injury (FROI, SROI), medical reports
    - Join WC data with industry denominator data
    - Cause rates by industry
  - 23 state DOHs already supported by NIOSH for surveillance
  - Focus of new NIOSH WC grant

- **Partner Strengths: SURVEILLANCE**
  - Within-State population data trending by industry/occupation
  - Employer benchmarking
  - Safety/health policy effectiveness studies
WC Organizations

- **IAIABC (Int’l. Assoc. of Industrial Accident Boards & Commissions):**
  - Key partner that coordinates standardized WC reporting for 40 states
  - Fosters collaborations with state WC bureaus and DOHs
  - NIOSH works with IAIABC to coordinate data calls

- **NCCI (National Council on Compensation Insurance):**
  - Analyzes WC data in 36 states for developing experience modification ratings and maintaining risk classes
  - NIOSH collaborates with NCCI on analyses

- **Partner Strengths: SURVEILLANCE**
  - Across-State data trending by industry/occupation, employer benchmarking
  - Communications with WC industry (State regulators, actuarial staff)
Private WC Insurers

• Several insurers currently partner with NIOSH
  • NORA council members
  • Collaborative research projects

• Liberty Mutual
  • Research Institute for Safety
  • Workplace Safety Index

• CNA
  • Ergonomic Guidelines for Manual Material Handling

• Partner Strengths: RESEARCH
  • Across-State data trending by industry/occupation, employer benchmarking
  • Prevention effectiveness studies
  • Safety/health consulting outreach
State-Fund WC Insurers

- Twenty-six states have state-fund insurers represented by the American Association of State Compensation Insurance Funds (AASCIF)
  - Four states are exclusive markets for state funds
    - ND, OH, WA, and WY
  - Data on both WC claims and employer safety/health exposures and control programs

- **Partner Strengths: SURVEILLANCE AND RESEARCH**
  - Within-State data trending by industry/occupation, employer benchmarking
  - Willingness to share data
  - Prevention effectiveness studies with long-term insured employers
  - Safety/health consulting outreach
State-Fund WC Insurer Example: Washington State

• **SHARP (Safety and Health Assessment for Research and Prevention)**
  - Since 1990, has advanced workplace health and safety by conducting numerous research, monitoring and demonstration projects
    - [http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research/About/default.asp](http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research/About/default.asp)

• **Key leader in WC prevention research**
  - Trucking Injury Reduction Emphasis (TIRES) Initiative
  - WC trending analyses
    - Prioritizing Industries for Occupational Injury and Illness Prevention and Research, Washington State Workers’ Compensation Claims Data, 2002-2010
State-Fund WC Insurer Example: Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation

- **OHBWC – NIOSH Partnership**

  - All-industry database of WC claims 2001-2011
    - WC trends by industry, employer size, occupation, causation, part of body, and injury/illness diagnoses
  
  - Evaluate effectiveness of over 15 OHBWC prevention programs

- **Safety Intervention Grant**
  - Matching funds to implement engineering controls since 1999
  - Program significantly reduced affected employee claims and costs
  - OH BWC quadrupled SIG budget, in 2014 provided $15 million to 535 employers
  - The effectiveness of insurer-supported safety and health engineering controls in reducing workers’ compensation claims and costs”


- **Workplace Wellness Grant**
  - $4 million over four years to implement wellness programs in 200+ employers
Use Surveillance to Focus Research and Prevention

Surveillance

Methods Development

Research

Building New Partnerships
Interested in Working with Western State-Based Insurers?