NIOSH American Indian and Alaska Native Initiative

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Building Bridges to Enhance the Well-Being of American Indian and Alaska Native Workers Workshop

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Disclaimer

The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.
Overview

- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
- NIOSH American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Initiative
- 2015 AI/AN Partnership Workshop
- Resources
- 2019 Workshop
Every Day in the United States...

9,000 workers suffer disabling injuries

16 workers die from work injuries

137 workers die from work-related illnesses
Origin of NIOSH

- Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 created NIOSH and OSHA
- U.S. federal agency that conducts research and makes recommendations to prevent worker injury and illness.

Mission: To develop new knowledge in the field of occupational safety and health and to transfer that knowledge into practice.
NIOSH Activities

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

2,901,365
American Indian/Alaska
Native workers

42% more likely to be employed in a high-risk occupation

AI/AN Workers

Tribes are often the largest employer in the community

Limited research on OSH initiatives in Tribal Communities
NIOSH AI/AN Initiative

Partner with AI/AN communities, tribal-serving organizations and partners to provide occupational safety and health support.
Improving Worker Safety and Health among American Indians/Alaska Natives: 2015 Partnership Workshop

American Indian and Alaska Native Partnership
2015 Workshop

The Improving Worker Safety and Health Among American Indians/Alaska Natives: Partnership Workshop was held August 17-18, 2015 at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. The event brought together members from many tribes across the U.S., as well as representatives from NIOSH and academia to discuss how to improve worker health and safety in tribal communities.

- Partnership Agenda
- Partnership Workshop Summary
- Partnership Workshop Challenges, Solutions, and Resources
Site Visits

☑ Aug 2015: Navajo Nation
☑ Nov 2015: Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
☑ Jan 2016: Oklahoma City Area
☑ Spring 2016: Alaska Area
☑ Summer 2016: Albuquerque Area
☑ Spring 2017: Bemidji Area
Selected Tribal Laws Related to Occupational Safety and Health

American Indian and Alaska Native tribes are sovereign nations that maintain a government-to-government relationship with the United States. There are currently 567 federally recognized tribes throughout the contiguous United States and Alaska. In addition to exercising political sovereignty, tribes exercise cultural sovereignty through traditions and religious practices unique to each tribe's history and culture. Cultural sovereignty encompasses the spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical aspects of Native peoples' lives and is a foundation for tribal exercise of political sovereignty.

As sovereign and tribal tribes have inherent authority to protect the public health and welfare of their citizens and to create their own laws and be ruled by them. This has, in the context of occupational safety and health, enabled tribes to establish their own occupational safety and health laws and rules. These laws are designed to ensure the health and safety of workers in tribal workplaces, much like laws in non-tribal workplaces. These tribal laws provide examples of occupational safety and health codes, laws specific to certain industries or activities, child labor laws, and worker compensation laws.

For more information about occupational safety and health, visit CDC’s National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health website.

Oriental Safety and Health Codes

Tribal codes offer examples of occupational safety and health laws that seek to prevent and mitigate occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities. These codes establish tribal occupational safety and health standards that are enforceable for the purpose of ensuring and enforcing compliance with these standards for tribal and other employees.
American Indian and Alaska Native Initiative

In 2013, NIOSH launched an initiative to partner with American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) communities, organizations, and other stakeholders to identify priority issues, conduct outreach, and determine how NIOSH could best provide occupational safety and health support to tribal communities. The main goal of the initiative is to build and strengthen tribal occupational safety and health capacity to ensure workers make it home safely and healthily to their families and communities every day. All activities are coordinated with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support (CSTLTS).

As sovereign nations, AI/AN tribes maintain a government-to-government relationship with the United States. There are currently 567 federally recognized tribes across the U.S. Over 5.4 million AI/AN live across the United States, comprising about 2 percent of the population. Twenty-two percent of AI/AN live on reservations.

AI/AN workers account for 2.7 million or 1.8% of the total U.S. workforce. These workers are employed in a wide variety of occupations with the highest numbers in office and administrative support, sales and related occupations, management, transportation and material moving, and food preparation and serving. Many workers are also employed through tribal enterprises such as medical care, housing, manufactured products, food production, livestock, and tourism. Tribes are often the largest employer in the community.
Building Bridges to Enhance the Well-Being of AI/AN Workers Workshop

Objectives:

- Identify safety and health priorities for AI/AN workers
- Contribute to the development of an AI/AN worker safety and health strategic plan
- Meet and network with Tribal, academic, and government partners to discuss common worker safety and health issues and solutions
- Learn about resources, funding opportunities, data sources, and surveillance systems to develop worker safety and health initiatives
Planning Committee

- Casey Crump, IHS
- Cortney Cuff, CHWE
- Liz Dalsey, CDC/NIOSH
- Katelynn Daniells, CDC/NIOSH
- Robert Foley, NIHB
- Constance Franklin, CDC/NIOSH

- Mike Flynn, CDC/NIOSH
- Connie Giroux, IHS
- Sarah Hatcher, CDC/NIOSH
- Kyla Retzer, CDC/NIOSH
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Thank you!

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.