



# **Working in Occupational Health**

## **Lessons from Nebraska Newbie**

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Derry Stover, MPH  
Nebraska Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance Program  
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services



# Howdy from NEBRASKA



*Punching Cattle on a Jack Rabbit*



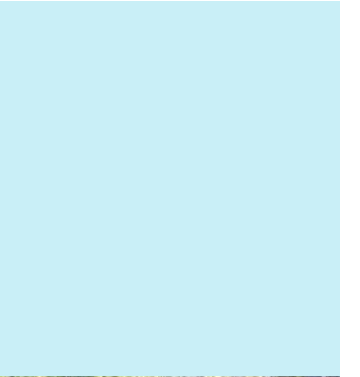
© 1985 American Legion, Publications and Public Relations



**WELCOME TO NEBRASKAland... WHERE THE WEST BEGINS**







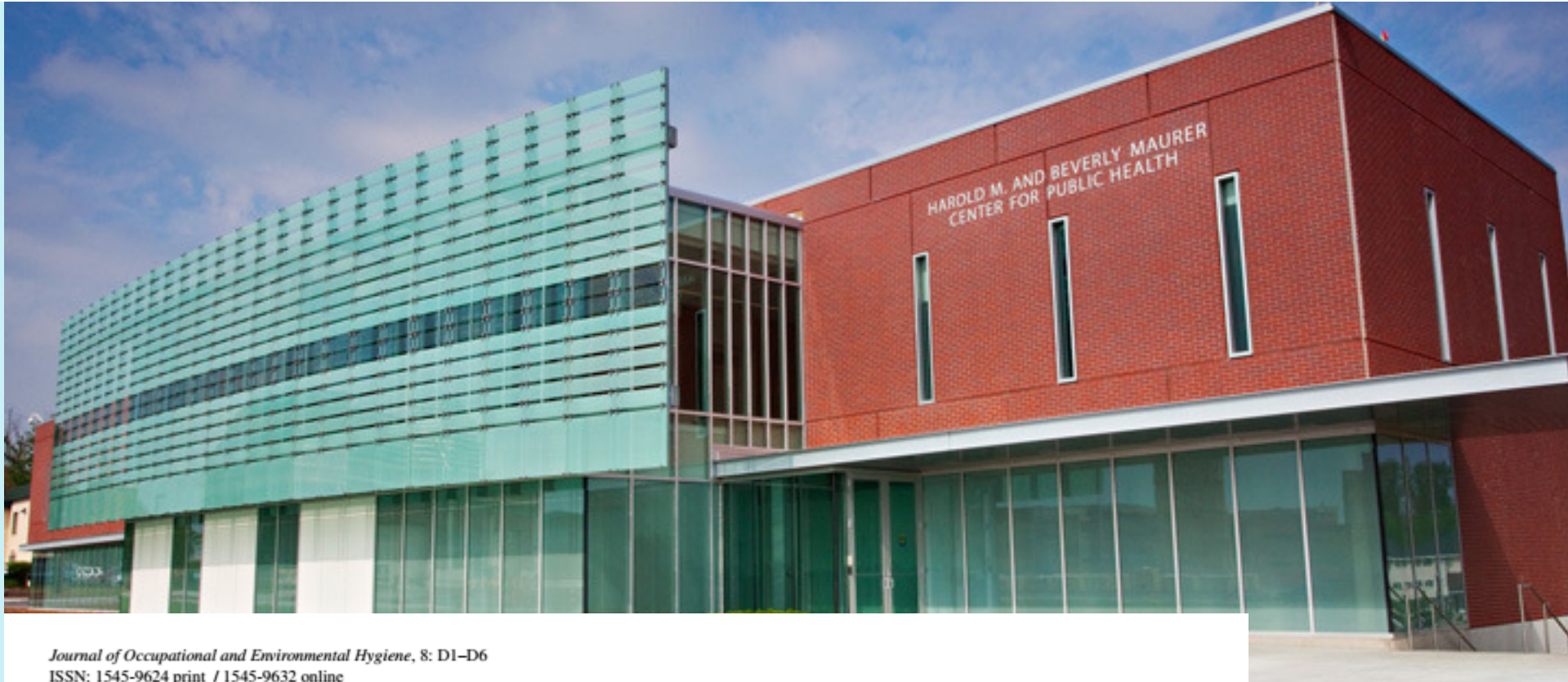






<https://www.walmart.com/ip/ol-roy-hearty-loaf-dog-food-13.2-oz/10450796>





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## **Case Study** Occupational Exposures to Antineoplastic Drugs in an Oncology-Hematology Department

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Approximately 100 antineoplastic drugs are used for the treatment of cancer and other diseases. Commonly referred to as chemotherapy drugs, antineoplastics act by preventing or inhibiting the growth of neoplasms. However, due to the



**Column Editor**  
James Couch

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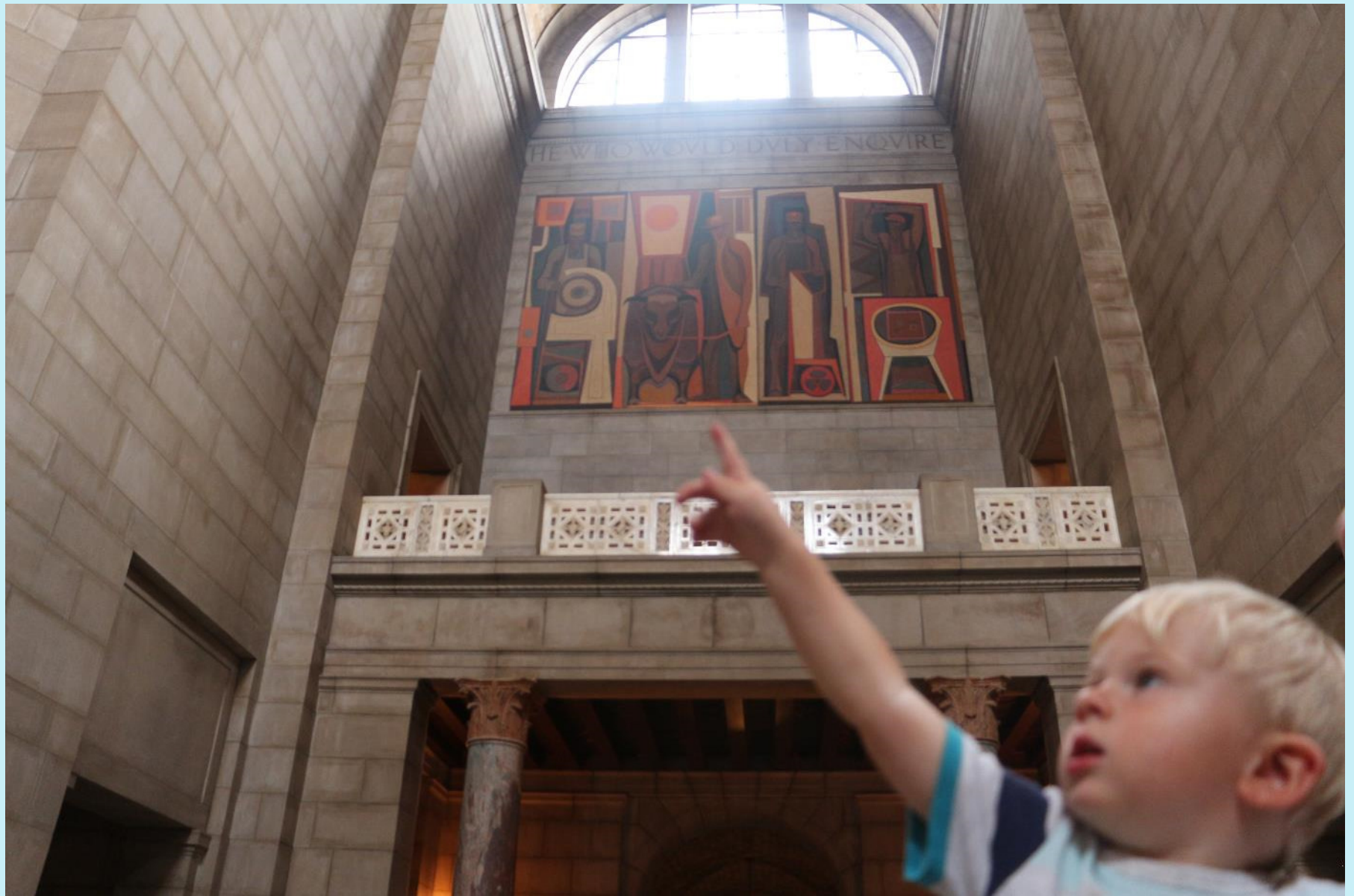






**Observe your surroundings and  
trust your gut**







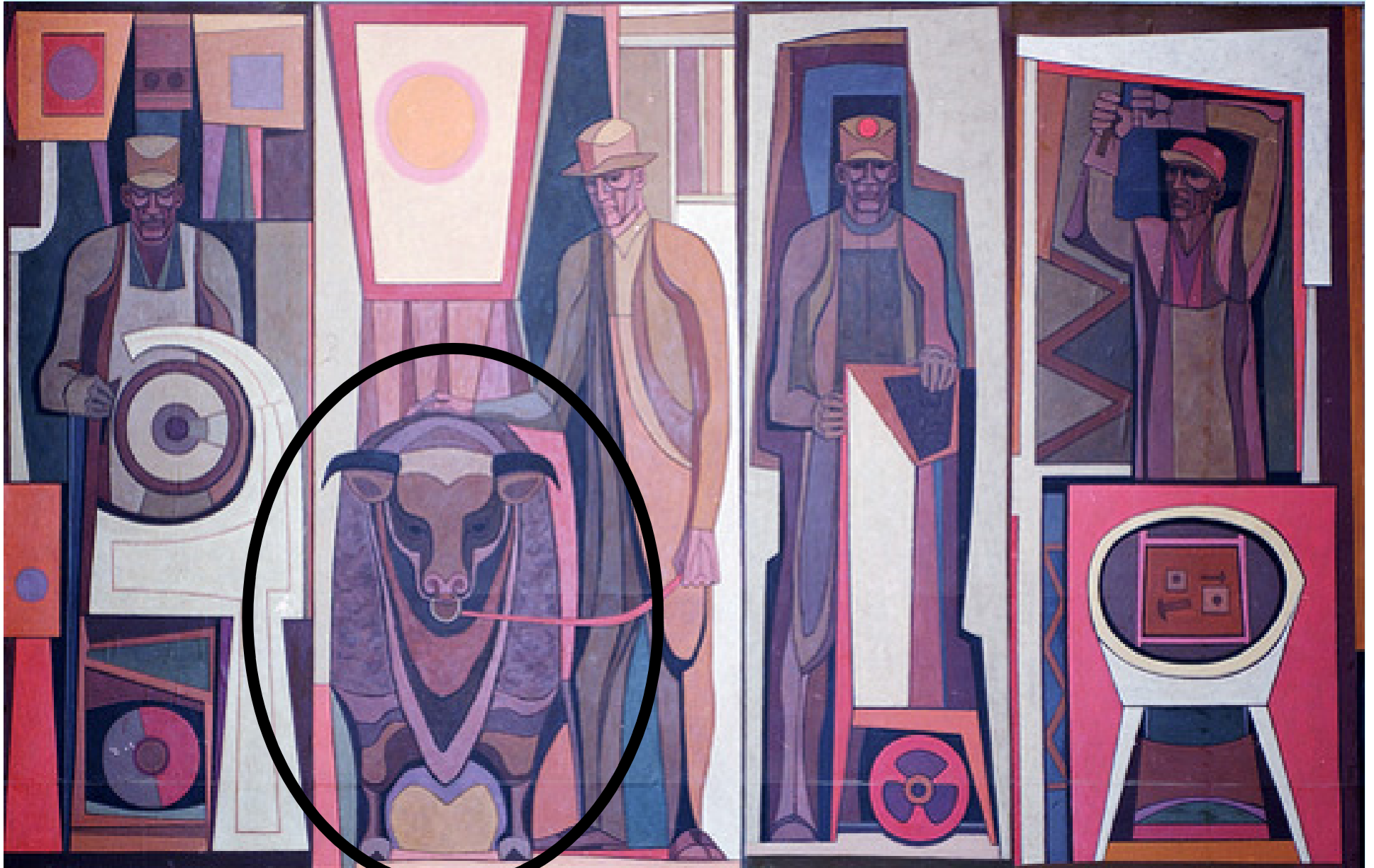


Kenneth Evett, 1954

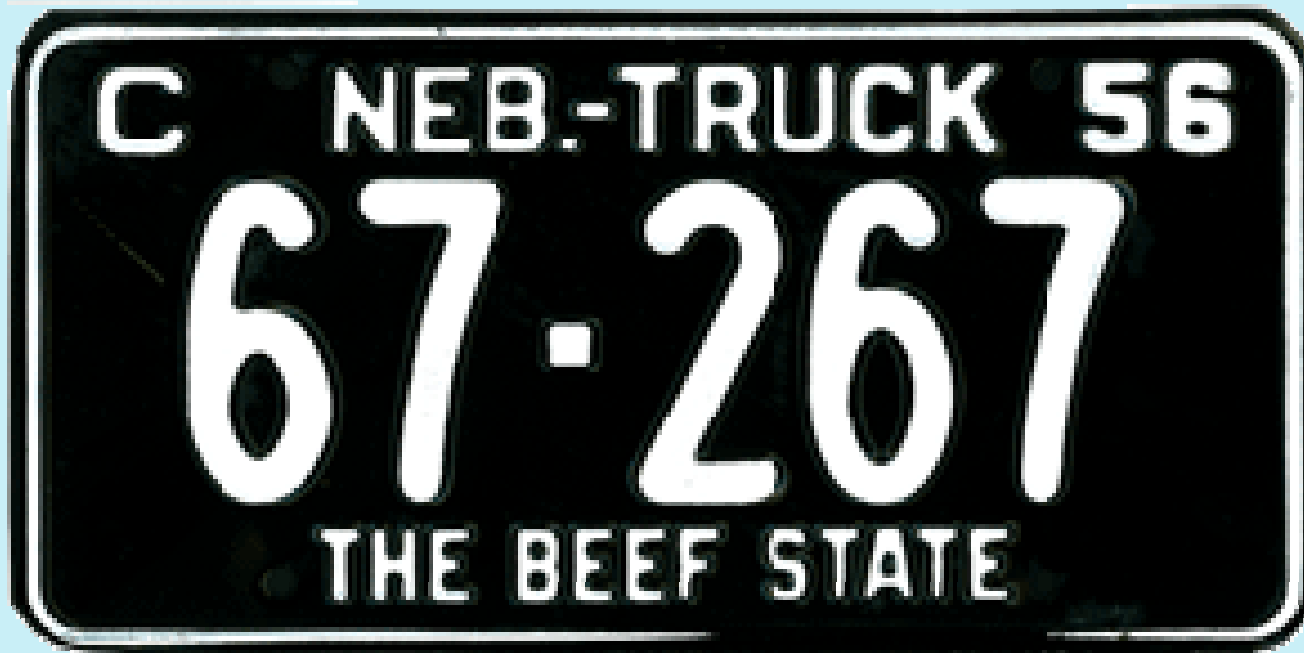


Kenneth Evett, 1954



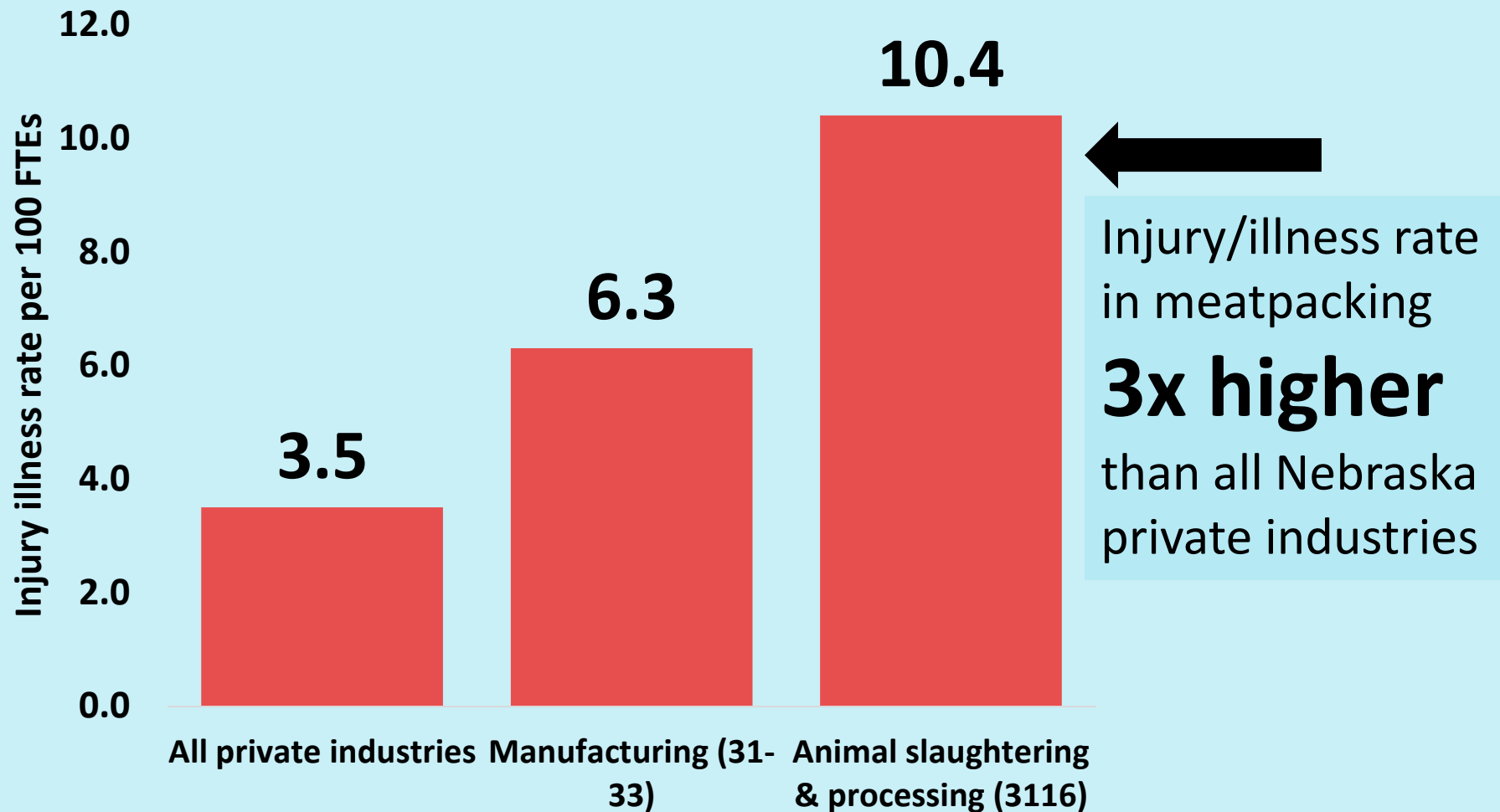


Kenneth Evett, 1954





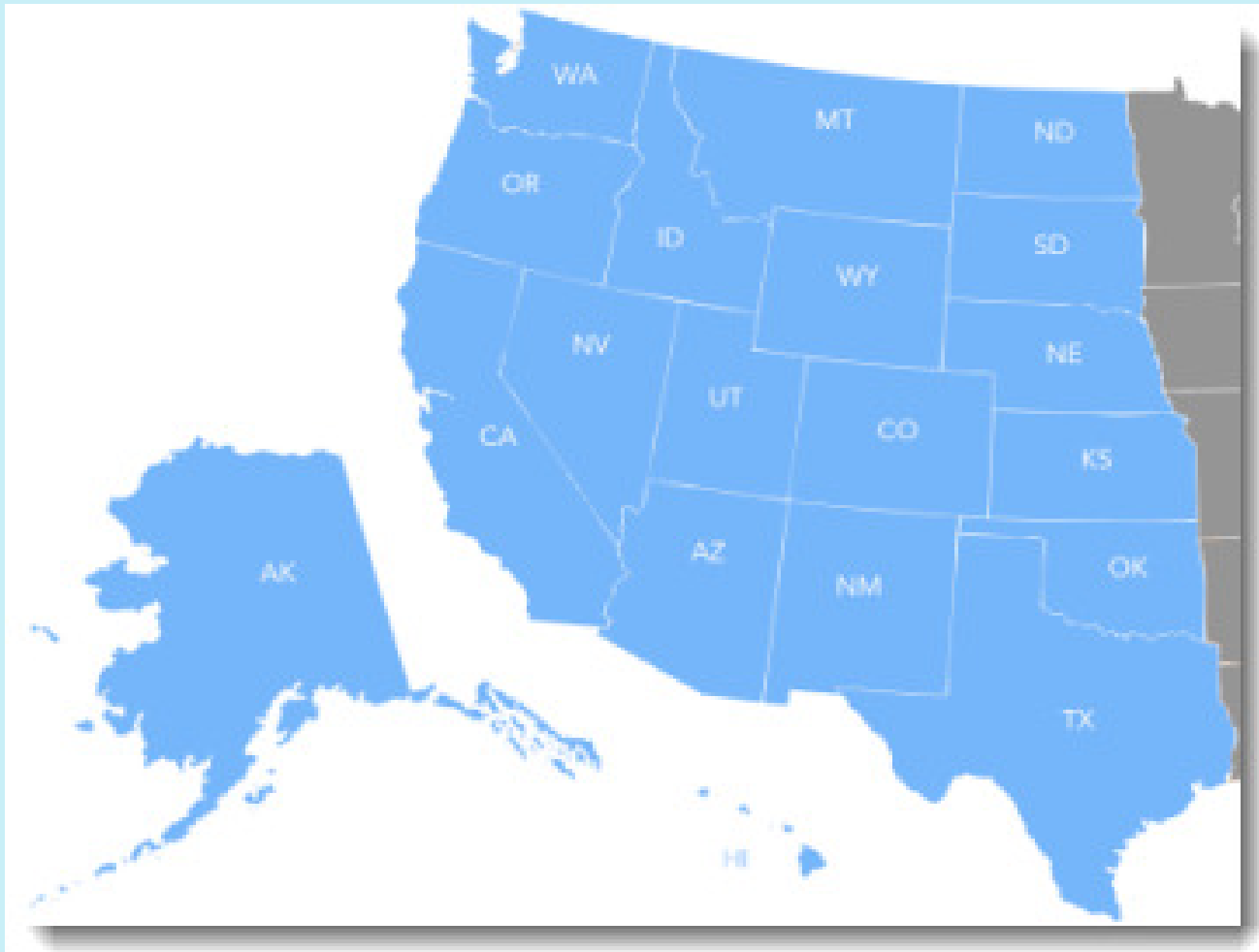
## Estimated nonfatal occupational injury and illness rates, Nebraska, 2014, from BLS SOII



**Embrace your environment and  
find your niche**









**Embrace the occupational health  
community**





# HOW MANY WORKPLACE INJURIES AND ILLNESSES OCCUR IN NEBRASKA?

## FATAL WORK INJURIES

**39**

Fatal work-related injuries in 2013

Data source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

### NUMBER OF FATAL INJURIES IN 2013 BY EVENT TYPE\*



- Transportation incidents
- Contact with objects/equipment
- Violence/persons/animals
- Falls, slips, trips
- Exposure to harmful substances



**Learn how to swim in data**

# Motivation

# **Status Quos worth changing**

**Work-related injuries and illnesses are not preventable**



# Work-related injuries and illnesses are preventable





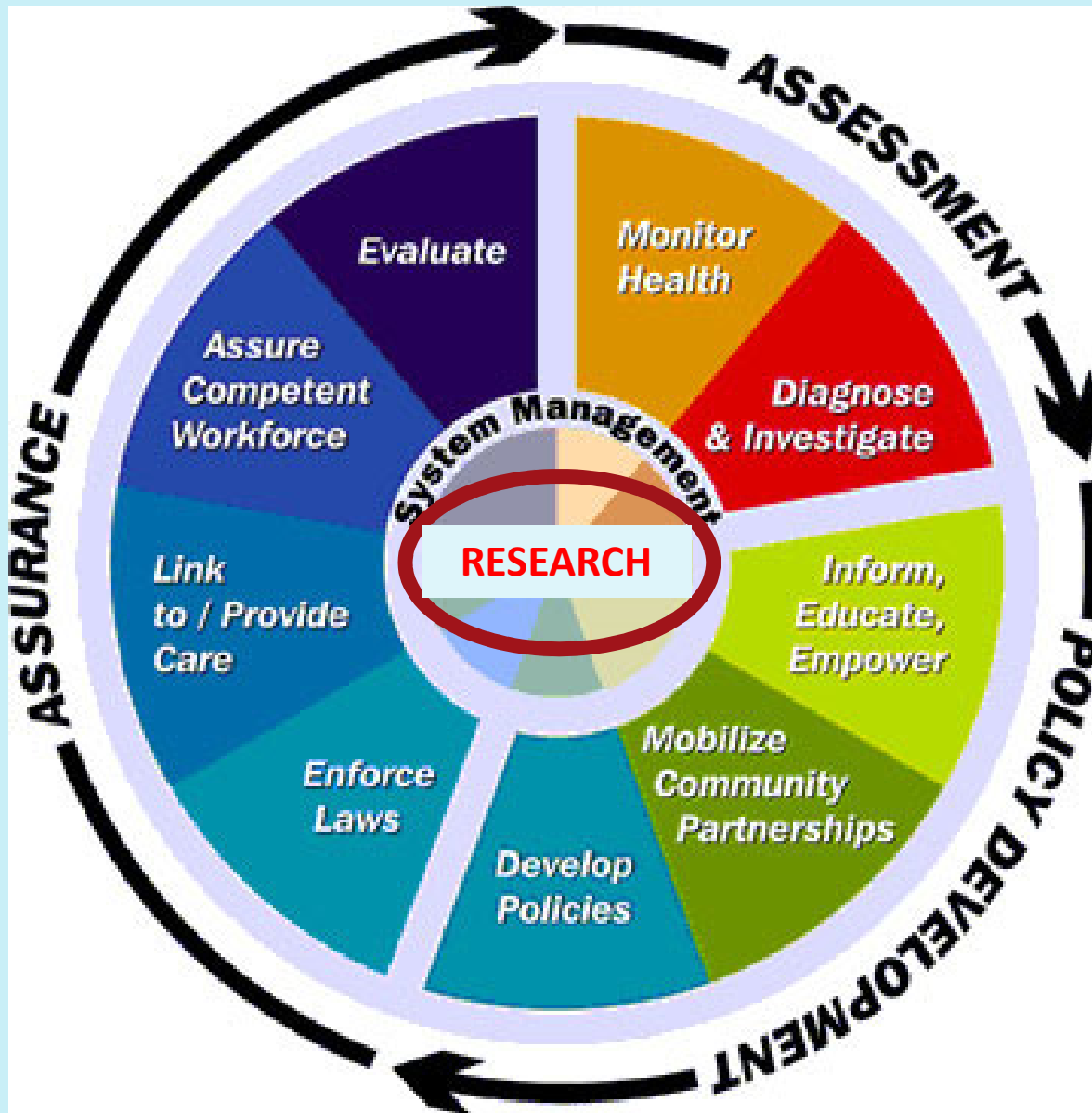


# Status Quos worth changing

- Work-related injuries and illnesses are not preventable
- **Occupational health is not integrated into public health practice**



# Public health core functions



**Neb. Rev. Stat. 81-601:  
Department of Health and Human  
Services; powers.**

“shall have general supervision and control  
over matters relating to public health”



Image: ProfPete (Pete Seel) at en.wikipedia



# Status Quos worth changing

- Work-related injuries and illnesses are not preventable
- Occupational health is tightly integrated into public health practice
- **Occupational health disparities are inevitable**









**“The injury we have is for the rest of our lives. And every day, I can feel the bones in my legs, hands, and fingers curving. With no job and no access to insurance, then I can no longer live a normal life. It is a life with pain.”**

**-Meatpacking worker, 2016**



Derry Stover, MPH

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services  
Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance Program

[Derry.stover@Nebraska.gov](mailto:Derry.stover@Nebraska.gov)

402-471-2822