

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program (Fundamental Program)
Annual Report: July 2015 – June 2016

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MAJOR OUTPUTS/PRODUCTS

Publications

Date	Title
Jun 2016	Occupational Health Indicators in Colorado, 2015 Update (CDPHE Report)
Jan 2016	Liu H, Patel D, Welch A, Wilson C, Mroz M, Li L, Rose C, VanDyke M , Swigris J, Hamzeh N, MaierLA. Association between Occupational Exposures and Sarcoidosis: an Analysis from Death Certificates in the United States, 1988-1999. Chest. 2016 Jan 30. pii: S0012-3692(16)00514-6. (PMID:26836934)

Presentations and Outreach Events

Surveillance findings and program overviews at conferences and meeting were presented throughout the Colorado community. Mike VanDyke, the program’s principal investigator has directed a graduate level course on occupational exposures and health effects for students at the Colorado School of Public Health. In addition, he has given occupational health focused lectures to three other graduate level courses at Colorado State University and the Colorado School of Public Health.

Date	Conference/Meeting	Title
January 27, 2016	CDC Summit on Environmental Hazards and Health Effects.	Sewer Gas and Associated Health Concerns at a Colorado Middle School.
October 21, 2015	Colorado Board of Health Meeting, Denver, CO	Occupational Health Surveillance in Colorado.

October 15, 2015	Colorado Environmental Health Directors Association	Colorado's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
July 2015	Colorado Board of Health Meeting	Oil and Gas Exposure Issues and Health Effects
Spring 2016	Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Colorado School of Public Health course EHOH 6629 (Occupational Safety and Ergonomics).	Personal Protective Equipment
Spring 2016	Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Colorado School of Public Health course EHOH 6617 (Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology).	Surveillance Issues in Environmental and Occupational Health
Spring 2016	Department of Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences, Colorado State University. Advanced Occupational Health EHRS 536	Occupational Health Surveillance
Fall 2015	Environmental Exposures and Health Effects: EHOH 6619, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Colorado School of Public Health	Course Director

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Public Health Surveillance

OHI data: We annually report Colorado's state-wide Occupational Health Indicators (OHI) data for 17 of 21 measures. Information on these measures were provided to the NIOSH clearinghouse, CSTE and posted on the Colorado Department of Public Health's website. For indicators we are unable to collect using NIOSH standard methods, similar data were published in our report using alternate methods. Colorado's Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) also operates under our surveillance program.

ABLES data: We also continue annual reporting of adult elevated blood lead level cases to the NIOSH ABLES national dataset. In the Fall of 2015, we implemented a new adult blood lead follow-back survey. This information provided us with additional information on the local sources of lead exposure for adults. This information has also allowed us to offer education materials and on-site technical guidance for worksites with continuing lead exposures. In

addition, we have incorporated specific intervention activities to prevent adult lead exposure including sending letters to companies identified with elevated lead cases ≥ 25 ug/dl that describes the OSHA lead standard and how to contact the OSHA consultation and NIOSH HHE programs. Over this progress period we have mailed letters to two companies.

BRFSS data: The program continued its record of success by adding industry and occupation questions (I/O) to Colorado's BRFSS surveys in 2015. By including this information in BRFSS, this will allow for better understanding of work as a social determinant of health, health disparities related to work, and provide a potential mechanism for early identification of emerging occupational diseases.

Worksite Investigations: An Indoor Air Quality assessment was performed at Casey Middle School in Boulder, Colorado beginning on March 2015. This investigation continued into the June 2015-July 2016 reporting period. The investigation required multiple public meetings as well as the distribution and analysis of health questionnaires from the entire staff at the school. In addition, to this investigation, we have consulted with a day-care center, a call center, and a local health department on occupational exposure issues.

Partnerships and Collaborations: Working with leading Occupational Health and Industrial Hygiene experts, the Colorado program has put together the first best practices guide for the marijuana industry. This document highlights the risks that are present to workers who are within the industry and offers guidance on the occupational health policies that should be put into place and best practices for employees within the industry. Final approval of this document is expected in 2016.

We continued our work on a pilot research project with the CDPHE communicable disease group, Colorado State University, and the Colorado School of Public Health to integrate industry and occupation question into routine data collection for the Colorado Infectious Disease Reporting System.

Through collaboration with an occupational health resident, we were able to explore the feasibility of using hospitalization data as a major data source for oil and gas nonfatal injuries. In addition, we have established a tracking database for fatalities in the oil and gas industry as well as occupational fatalities potentially associated with intoxication by marijuana or other substances.

We spent a significant amount of time developing and submitting an application for NIOSH funding through their workers compensation surveillance RFA. Though this application was ultimately unsuccessful, we were able to develop new relationships that will be helpful in obtaining Colorado Workers Compensation data in the future.