



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

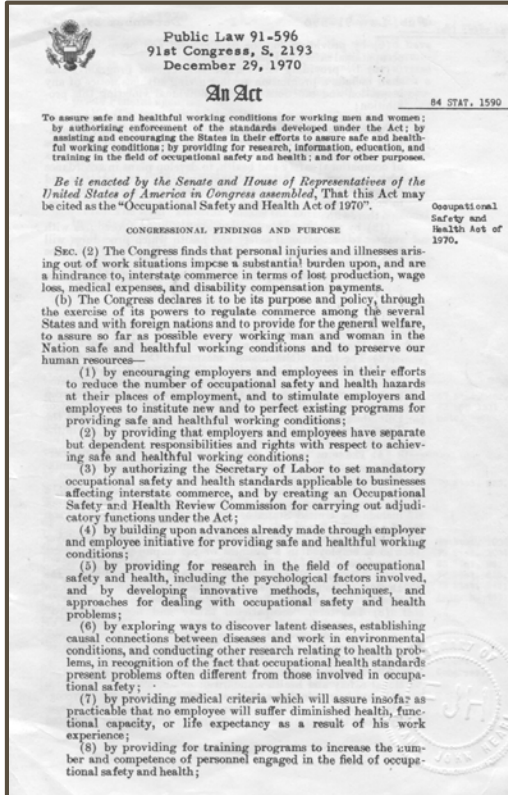


137

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.

Research & Recommendations

Department of
Health and Human Services
(HHS)



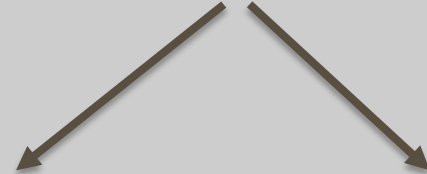
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention



National Institute for
Occupational Safety
and Health (NIOSH)

Regulation & Enforcement

Department of Labor
(DOL)



Mine Safety
and Health
Administration
(MSHA)

Occupational
Safety and Health
Administration
(OSHA)

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 ¹



42% more likely to be
employed in a **high-risk**
occupation ²

¹ NIOSH "Employed Labor Force" (ELF) system, based upon Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Current Population Survey (CPS) Query 2 Steege A, Baron S, Marsh S, Menendez C, Myers J [2014]. Examining Occupational Health and Safety Disparities Using National Data: A Cause for Continuing Concern. Am J Ind Med 57:527-538.

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





Public Health Law

Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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.¹ There are currently 567 federally recognized tribes throughout the contiguous United States and Alaska.² In addition to exercising political sovereignty, tribes exercise cultural sovereignty through traditions and religious practices unique to each tribe's history and culture.³ Cultural sovereignty "encompasses the spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical aspects" of Native people's lives and is a foundation to tribal exercise of political sovereignty.⁴

As sovereign nations, tribes have inherent authority to protect the public health and welfare of their citizens and "to make their own laws and be ruled by them."⁵ Thus, in the context of occupational safety and health, tribes have the authority to promote occupational safety and health using methods most appropriate for their communities.⁶ Tribes have exercised this authority by passing laws related to occupational safety and health and by providing occupational safety and health services through tribal agencies and programs.⁷

This document offers examples of selected tribal laws related to occupational safety and health. These laws can be referenced by jurisdictions interested in developing or updating their own occupational safety and health laws.⁸ While tribal codes sometimes incorporate federal or state occupational safety and health laws by reference, this document does not provide an overview of state or federal occupational safety and health laws. The following tribal laws provide examples of occupational safety and health codes, laws specific to certain industries or activities, child labor laws, and workers' compensation laws.

For more information about occupational safety and health, visit CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health [website](#).

Occupational 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.⁹ Often these laws establish a tribal occupational safety and health agency or commission,¹⁰ occupational health and safety standards,¹¹ and they also allow for the inspection and enforcement of these standards for tribal and other employers.¹²



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

National Indian Health Board



Grant Funding Available for Occupational Health and Safety Projects in Agriculture or Forestry

The High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (HICAS) at Colorado State University is accepting applications for projects related to improving the health and safety of those working in agriculture or forestry within the HICAHS region (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming).

American Indian and Alaska
Native Initiative

AI/AN Workers

Outreach

Resources

Contact Us

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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.^[1] Over 5.4 million AI/AN live across the United States, comprising about 2 percent of the population.^[2] Twenty-two percent of AI/AN live on reservations.^[2]

AI/AN workers account for 2.7 million or 1.8% of the total U.S. workforce.^[3] 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.^[3] 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.



Construction workers on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Photo by NIOSH

AI/AN Workers

Outreach

Resources & Publications

Join the listserv!

Join the listserv to receive
research updates, links to worker

References

[1] [Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services From the United State Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fed. Reg 81, 86 \(June 11, 2017\)](#)

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

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- Cortney Cuff, CHWE
- Liz Dalsey, CDC/NIOSH
- Katelynn Daniells, CDC/NIOSH
- Robert Foley, NIHB
- Constance Franklin, CDC/NIOSH
- Mike Flynn, 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.

