# American Indian Alaska Native (AI/AN) Worker Safety and Health

Improving Worker Safety and Health among American Indians/Alaska Natives:

Partnership Workshop

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August 17, 2015

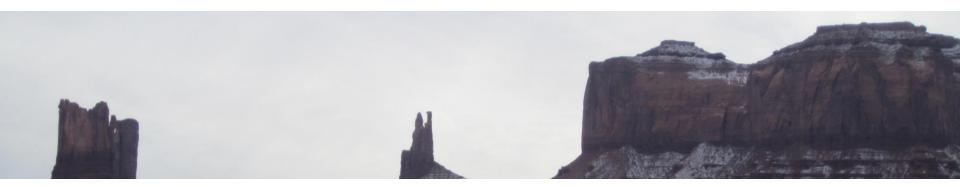






## **Outline**

- NIOSH Overview
- AI/AN Initiative
- Tribal Work Force
- Worker Data
- Activities







# **Every day in the US...**

- 9,000 U.S. workers sustain disabling injuries
- 16 die from a work injury
- 137 die from workrelated illnesses







# **Origin of NIOSH**



Public Law 91-596 91st Congress, S. 2193 December 29, 1970

An Art

ure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women; o assure sate and seaming working conditions for working men and women by authorizing enforcement of the standards developed under the Act; by assisting and encouraging the States in their efforts to assure safe and health ful working conditions; by providing for research, information, education, and training in the field of occupational safety and health; and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970".

CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

Occupational Safety and Health Ast of

Sec. (2) The Congress finds that personal injuries and illnesses arising out of work situations impose a substantia! burden upon, and are a hindrance to, interstate commerce in terms of lost production, wage loss, medical expenses, and disability compensation payments.

(b) The Congress declares it to be its purpose and policy, through the exercise of its powers to regulate commerce among the several States and with foreign nations and to provide for the general welfare, to assure so far as possible every working man and woman in the Nation safe and healthful working conditions and to preserve our

 by encouraging employers and employees in their efforts to reduce the number of occupational safety and health hazards at their places of employment, and to stimulate employers and employees to institute new and to perfect existing programs for providing safe and healthful working conditions;

(2) by providing that employers and employees have separate but dependent responsibilities and rights with respect to achiev-ing safe and healthful working conditions;

ing sare and nearing working conditions;
(3) by authorizing the Secretary of Labor to set mandatory occupational safety and health standards applicable to businesses affecting interstate commerce, and by creating an Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for carrying out adjudicatory functions under the Act:

(4) by building upon advances already made through employer and employee initiative for providing safe and healthful working

(5) by providing for research in the field of occupational safety and health, including the psychological factors involved, and by developing innovative methods, techniques, and approaches for dealing with occupational safety and health

(6) by exploring ways to discover latent diseases, establishing causal connections between diseases and work in environmental causal connections between diseases and work in environmental conditions, and conducting other research relating to health prob-lems, in recognition of the fact that occupational health standards-present problems often different from those involved in occupa-tional safety; (7) by providing medical criteria which will assure insofar as practicable that no employee will suffer diminished health, func-tional capacity, or life expectancy as a result of his work

(8) by providing for training programs to increase the number and competence of personnel engaged in the field of occupational safety and health;

Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 created OSHA and NIOSH

U.S. federal agency that conducts research and makes recommendations to prevent worker injury and illness.

#### **NIOSH Mission**

To provide leadership in research to prevent work-related illness, injury, disability, and death.







# **Occupational Safety and Health**

Regulation/Enforcement/
Consultation

Research/Recommendations

Department of Labor (DOL)

Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Occupational
Safety and Health
Administration
(OSHA)

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
(CDC)

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)







#### **NIOSH Locations**





- Washington, DC
- Atlanta, GA
- Spokane, WA
- Cincinnati, OH
- Morgantown, WV
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Anchorage, AK
- Denver, CO







### **NIOSH Activities**

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



Photo by Aaron Sussell







# **Health Hazard Evaluation Program**

- Evaluations to determine whether particular workplace exposures, processes or conditions pose a hazard to workers
- Responds to requests from employees, employers, and gov't agencies



http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/







### Information and Guidance

- Journal articles
- Technical reports
- Alerts on hazards for employers & workers
- Web and social media
- Lay materials available in English and Spanish









# American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Initiative

Partner with AI/AN communities, organizations and partners to provide occupational safety and health (OSH) support.

#### **Objectives**

- 1. Identify priority needs
- 2. Determine how best to provide OSH support
- 3. Conduct outreach







# **AI/AN Population**

- AI/AN Population
  - 5.2 million AI/AN alone or in combination
  - 2% of the total population
- Distribution of AI/AN population
  - 41% in the West
  - 17% in the Midwest
  - 33% in the South
  - 10% in the Northeast

## **566** Federal Recognized Tribes

Source: US Census, 2013







### **Tribal Workforce**

## .08 % of the US workforce



Tribes often the largest employer in the community.



Limited research on OSH initiatives in Tribal communities.







# Worker Injury Rates among AI/AN

- NIOSH Study: Comparison of injury rates in AI/AN vs other races/ethnicities
- Found that AI/AN injury rates were
   42% higher compared to white workers
- AI/AN worker fatality data were combined with other races so not able to compare fatality rates

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE 57:527-538 (2014)

#### Examining Occupational Health and Safety Disparities Using National Data: A Cause for Continuing Concern

Andrea L. Steege, Poo, NPH, <sup>1\*</sup> Sherry L. Baron, MD, NPH, <sup>1</sup> Suzanne M. Marsh, MPA, <sup>2</sup> Cammie Chaumont Menéndez, Poo, <sup>2</sup> and John R. Myers, MS<sup>2</sup>

Background Occupational status, a core component of socioeconomic status, plays a critical role in the well-being of U.S. workers. Identifying work-related disparities can help toward revenition officers.

metads. Bureau of Labor Statistics workplace data were used to characterize high-risk occupations and ocumine relationships between demographic and work-related variables and fatality.

Results Employment in high-sipsy-filtense occupations was independently associated with hinge made. Butch, Solay shood deeper, foreign-tert, and then wages, disposal faint occupational injusy rate reades for 2003—2009 were elevated for makes, older workers, and compared and injusy rate reades for 2003—2009 were elevated for makes, older workers, and reader workers and an advantage of the control of the control of the control injustice and the Algorithm that the Alg

Conclusions These findings highlight the importance of understanding patterns of disportise of workplace higherse, illusories and fatalities. Results can improve intervention of foreit by developing programs that batter meet the needs of the increasingly diverse U.S. workforce. Am. J. Ind. Med. 57:527-538, 2014. Published 2014. This article is a U.S. Government work and it in the mibile domein in the U.S.

KEY WORDS: occupational health disparities; in jury; fatality; occupation; in dustry; race; ethnicity; nativity; SOII; CFOI; CPS

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Disclosure Dahmert The authorapport recent Conditions in The Findings and core tailors in this report and the supplied to a set if your centifications of the National or this tention applies a College of of company terms or products down and condition and community that

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#### INTRODUCTION

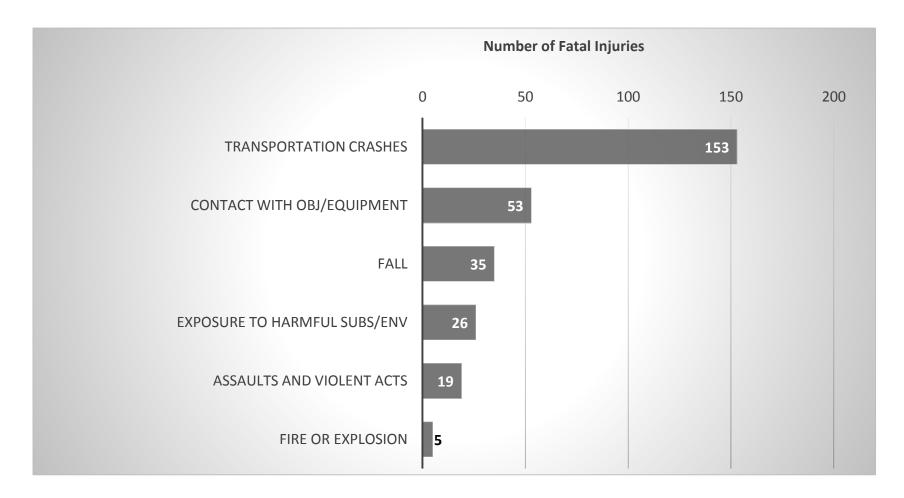
Occupations Initiate, a cere component of socioconcommistations (SSR), plays a critical role in the metaled and social well-being of the estimated 155 million U.S. workers (MacDonald et al., 1909; BLS, 2013). While employment contributes-positively to workers physical and psychological habits, millions safter worker-lated injuries, (Breases, or dark each year. According to the Branca of Lador Staintics (BLS, 10 200), agreemanchy 1 millions workers in private industry and 5/20/000 in state and local government and form of the social properties of the social properisation of the social properiistic social properlations, over 450,000 U.S. workers define no comprisional injuries [BLS, 2011]. Workplays injuries, illnesses and durba we estimated to out U.S. workers ded pasts 5/230 billions







# Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event, AI/AN Workers, 2003-2010



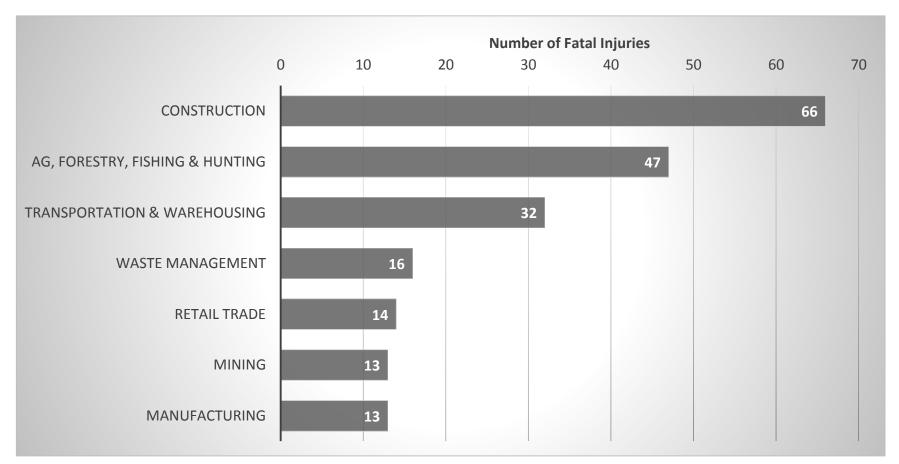
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2012







# Fatal Occupational Injuries by Industry, AI/AN workers, 2003-2010



Source: BLS, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. Note: Includes fatalities in most frequent (private) industry only (n=251). There were an additional 51 fatalities to Al/AN workers employed by state or federal government







# Fatal Occupational Injuries by State, AI/AN workers, 2003-2010



<u>Source</u>: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2012.







# **AI/AN Initiative Activities**

- Attend and present at Tribal meetings
- Provide technical assistance
- Conduct outreach
- Promote OSH Surveillance Funding Announcement
- Partnership development



National Indian Health Board, Public Health Summit, 2015



Navajo Nation Safety and Health Conference, 2014



Colville Reservation, 2015





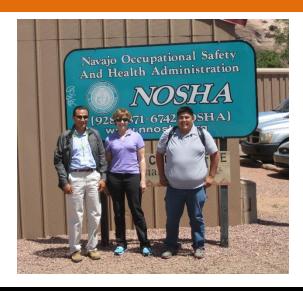


### **Tribal Site Visits**

- Partnership development
- Increase understanding of OSH
- Develop a worker safety and health assessment tool

#### **Planned Area Visits**

- August 2015: Navajo Nation
- Fall 2015: Oklahoma City Area
- Fall 2015: Portland Area
- Winter 2016: Albuquerque Area
- Spring 2016: Alaska Area









## Thank You!





