NIOSH Public Safety Sector Research, Corrections Subsector Goals, and the Total Worker Health™ Approach

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National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

- Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970
- Conduct research and make recommendations to improve worker safety and health
NIOSH Mission

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

• Basic and Applied Research
• Interdisciplinary/Multi-Disciplinary Research
• Epidemiology
• Field Studies
• Laboratory Studies
• Engineering Controls
• Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
• Exposure Assessment
National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Sector Programs

- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing
- Construction
- Healthcare and Social Assistance
- Manufacturing
- Mining
- Oil and Gas Extraction
- Services
- Public Safety
- Wholesale-Retail Trade
- Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities
Public Safety Sector Program

• Identify the research, information, and actions most urgently needed to prevent occupational illnesses, injuries and fatalities among public safety and emergency response workers.
Public Safety Sector Program

- Firefighters
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Law Enforcement
- Corrections
- Wildland Fire Services
Public Safety Sector Objectives

• Reduce Chronic Disease
• Reduce Musculoskeletal Disorders
• Reduce Motor Vehicle Incidents
• Reduce Workplace Violence
• Promote Healthy Work Design and Well Being
• Improve Surveillance
• Improve Emergency Preparedness
Correctional Officers

- Increased Job Demands
  - Increasing Inmate Population
  - Staffing shortages
  - High turnover

- Highest number of injuries that resulted in days away from work
  - Assaults
  - Restraining inmates

- 4 times higher rates of days away from work for non-fatal injuries
Correctional Officers Stressors

- Public Perception
- Considered Low-Level Occupation
- Violence Backdrop
- Hours of Work/Mandatory Overtime
- Inmate Contact and Behavior
- Overcrowding/Understaffing
- Exposure to Disease, Biological Agents
Priority Research Areas for Correctional Workers

• Mental Health
  – Depression
  – Suicide
  – Substance Use/Abuse

• Workplace Violence

• Work-Family Balance

• Cardiovascular Disease
Total Worker Health (TWH)

Policies, programs, & practices that integrate protection from work-related safety & health hazards with promotion of injury & illness prevention efforts to advance worker well-being
Total Worker Health (TWH)

Keep Workers Safe

Establish Workplace Policies, Practices, and Programs that Improve Health

Create Worker Well-Being
Centers of Excellence and TWH Affiliates

- Oregon Health and Sciences Univ Healthy WorkForce Center
- Univ of Iowa Healthier Workforce Center for Excellence
- National Safety Council
- University of Michigan
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
- Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace
- Mount Sinai Health System
- Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Center for Work, Health, and Well-being
- American College of Preventive Medicine
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Laborers’ Health and Safety Fund of North America
- Univ of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- Univ of Georgia
- American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
- ISSA - The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
- AgriSafe Network
- Nebraska Safety Council
- Univ of California, Berkeley School of Public Health
  - Labor Occ Health Program
  - Interdisciplinary Center for Healthy Workplaces
- Valley Health Alliance
- Center for Health, Work and Environment, Colorado School of Public Health
  - International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
  - Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center
  - Kentucky Department for Public Health
- SAIF - Oregon’s not-for-profit, state-chartered workers’ compensation insurance company

(Affiliates recently added: Industrial Minerals Association - North America; the University of Buffalo, Eskinazi Health System and the National Security Administration)
Contact

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