

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

Paula L. Grubb, Ph.D.
Lead Research Psychologist

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

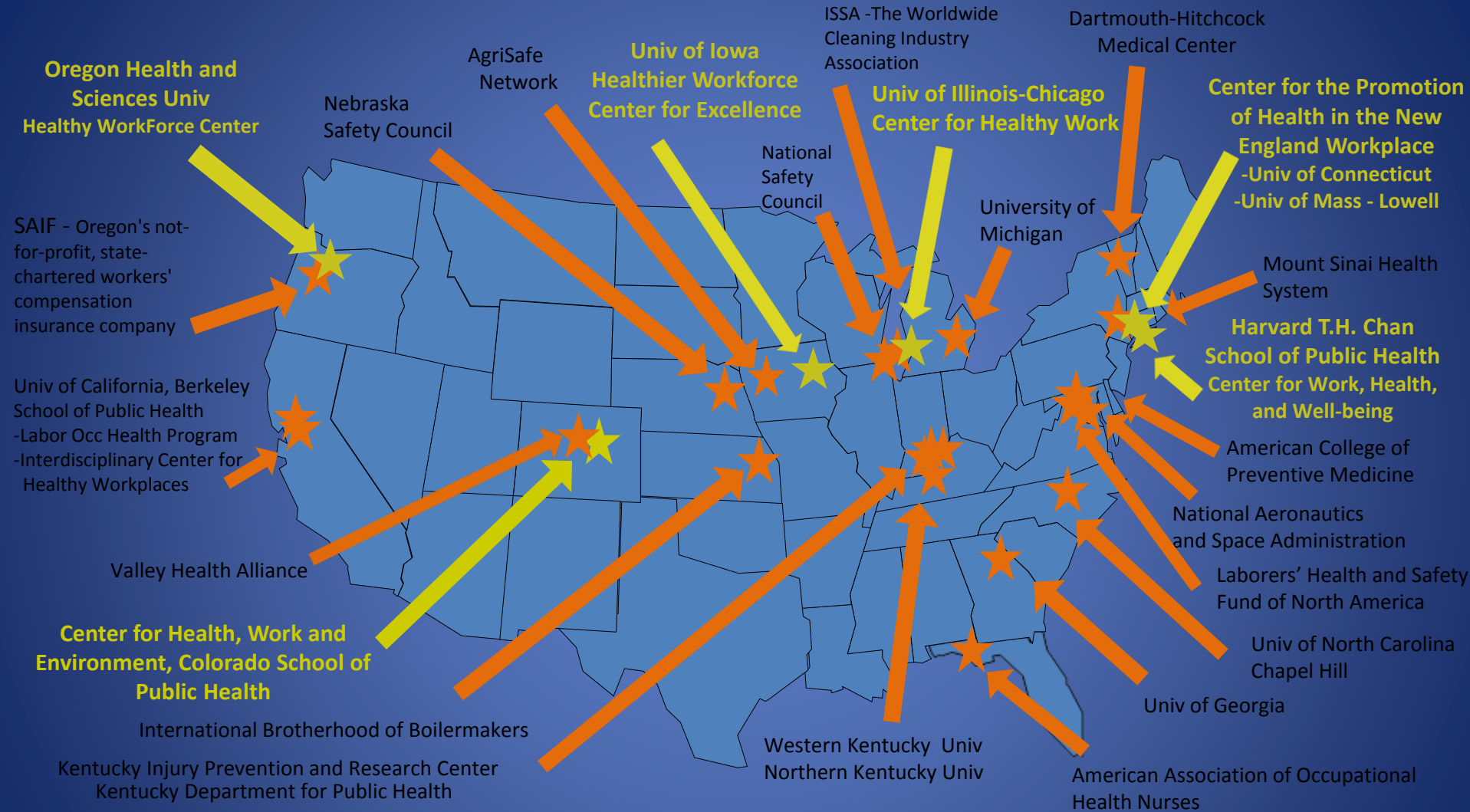


Establish Workplace Policies, Practices, and Programs that Improve Health



Create Worker Well-Being

Centers of Excellence and TWH Affiliates



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

Contact

- Paula L. Grubb, Ph.D.

NIOSH

PLG4@CDC.GOV