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

Paula L. Grubb, Ph.D.
Research Psychologist

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Division of Science Integration

Disclaimer: The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
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 Cardiovascular Disease, Cancer, and Other Chronic Diseases
• Reduce Infection Disease Transmission
• Reduce Musculoskeletal Disorders
• Reduce Motor Vehicle Injuries
• Reduce Workplace Violence
• Promote Healthy Work Design and Well-Being
• Improve Surveillance
• Improve Resilience/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/Misuse
• Exposure to Traumatic Events
• 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
New Publication: *Edited Volume on Total Worker Health*

Edited by Heidi L. Hudson, Jeannie A. S. Nigam, Steven L. Sauter, L. Casey Chosewood, Anita L. Schill, and John Howard
Contact

• Paula L. Grubb, Ph.D.
NIOSH
Division of Science Integration
Social Science Training Research Branch

PLG4@CDC.GOV