
Hispanic Worker Occupational Safety and Health

Healthy Kansans 2010
Steering Committee Meeting
April 22, 2005

Hispanic Worker - Occupational Safety & Health Statistics

Growing Hispanic Labor Force

- 10.9% of 135 Million workers in 2001
- BLS projects 3.1% annual growth rate
- 30.3 million by 2010

Fatality Rates

- 1992 – 2002 fatality rates ranged between 5-6 per 100,000 employed
- Largest proportion of fatal injuries in construction industry (27.7% of total or 1,994 cases)

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- Transportation incidents accounted for 2,593 or 33.7% of fatal injuries

Injury Rates

- Consistent upward trend
 - 8.5% in 1992 to 12.5% in 2001
 - Highest median work loss of 7 days
 - Lowest percentage of short term (1-2 day) loss compared to white or black workers.
 - Highest percentage of long term loss (31 days or more)

How Are We Addressing This Issue in Kansas Now?

- Direct interventions
 - inspecting workplaces
 - consulting with employers and providing assistance,
 - training and recognition programs

- Promote a safety and health culture through compliance assistance, cooperative programs and strong leadership.
 - Partnerships
 - Alliances
 - Training and Outreach

- OSHA Intervention Activity in Kansas
 - Residential Construction Local Emphasis Program
 - Public Service Announcements
 - Spanish Web Page / Outreach / Quick Start / Publications
 - Participation in Small Employer Workshops and Expositions

What Are Kansas' Assets for Improving This Health Issue?

- OSHA Spanish Publications / Website
 - www.osha.gov
- Employers
- Public Service Announcements (PSA's)
- KDOL Consultation

What Are Barriers or Liabilities That Are Limiting Progress in Kansas?

- Cultural barriers
- Language barriers
- Distrust of government
- Widespread lack of safety and health knowledge
- Difference in education and/or lack of formal education
- Unavailability of state specific data

Recommendations

- Methods to leverage independent contractors and / or those who hire them
- Methods to break through barriers
- Outreach and PSA's
- Kansas Specific data

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