

Combined Recommendations from Breakout #3

What the Government Can Do

- Public health campaigns should include work-related information
 - e.g., CDC Health Heart Campaign, just released could have useful information on how work can affect cardiovascular health
 - Health Disparity Initiatives- work is a social determinant of health and should be included in these initiatives
- State and local Public Health Departments should collaborate more across subdivisions within their organizations and communities to better address all aspects of health disparities, particularly in immigrant and migrant populations (with explicit attention to work-related health challenges)
 - Create guidelines for how to do this
- Federal Research Agencies
 - Addressing environment and environmental health should incorporate occupation into their programs (e.g. environmental justice includes disproportionate work-place exposures)
 - Should include work as “a social determinant of health.”
 - Include “upstream” factors (e.g. precarious employment, shift work)
 - Should allow grantees to respond to changing landscape, perhaps by more frequent use of mechanisms that are flexible (e.g. cooperative agreements)
 - Include reviewers with expertise in Community Based Participatory Research on panels
 - Evaluation of trainings should be included in funding
 - NIOSH sectors need to champion Occupational Health Disparities agenda
- Electronic Health Records
 - Should include information on work so that work and health can be linked and to understand population-based injuries and illnesses.
 - Must have privacy protections
- Green/Sustainability Movement
 - Green should be good for the workers who make the green products as well as the environment.
 - Include workers’ health in health impact assessments (not solely community impact)
 - Workers should not become ill or die manufacturing and assembling green products
- Community health workers
 - Make occupational health a component for community health centers (HRSA)
 - Can be used effectively to address occupational health and safety in addition to the other health topics they address as part of their work in the community
 - Use standards and state models for programs that use Community Health Workers
 - Use worker peer mentors as one form of community health worker—that would do training specifically related to OHS prevention.
- Public Health Surveys and surveillance systems
 - Should include questions about work
 - Occupational health surveys should be validated more widely

Combined Recommendations from Breakout #3

- Enforcement Agencies
 - Utilize innovative models such as collaboration between enforcement and community groups (e.g. Philaposh)
 - Data Systems should talk to each other, e.g., DOL Wage and Hour, OSHA, USDA, FDA, and EPA
 - OSHA/BLS should include contract employees and race/ethnicity in their data collections
 - Enforce the laws that already exist
 - Make the cost of breaking the law meaningful
 - Include occupational groups traditionally excluded such as Ag, temporary, contractors, small businesses
 - Create national emphasis programs to target underserved groups (immigrants, high risk businesses)
 - Publicize good actors as well as bad actors
 - Improve protections against retaliation
 - Funding initiatives that require integration (especially important with decreased funding) of
 - Occupational health and other health issues
 - Occupational health and other issues (wage & hour, housing)
 - Other enforcement ideas
 - E.g. Require specific training as part of a violation (PHILAPOSH training in construction)
 - Replace a fine with a requirement to contribute to OS&H training
 - Redirect class action lawsuit awards to an OS&H fund instead of individuals
- Training
 - NIEHS Minority Training model works
 - Should be expanded to OSHA and NIOSH and not recreated
 - Additional funding for training such as occupational health and workforce development (job training):
 - In schools
 - For small business owners
 - As a condition for receiving contracts (such as Susan Harwood grants)
 - More Spanish and other language and culturally appropriate training

What We Can Do

- Reach out to
 - Other disciplines (e.g. social work can offer an important addition to occupational health and safety)
 - Government Agencies
 - Media
 - Investigative reporting
 - Success stories
 - Minority press
- Create and Foster Partnerships
 - Improve system strategies for ongoing sharing and networking
 - For example, Cleveland Chamber of Commerce and area OSHA collaborated on OH&S
Those workers with safety and wage and hour training can contact OSHA directly due to their expertise
 - Work to improve collaboration between government and labor for intervention activities
- Training
 - Increase the number of OS&H internships
 - Increase language appropriate and culturally appropriate training

Combined Recommendations from Breakout #3

- Academic journals
 - should be more open to publish intervention research and successful programs
 - Academics should publish in more accessible journals and get credit with their universities for doing so.
- Conference Attendees
 - We should consider ourselves a network – continue to communicate and look for collaborations.