



COMMUNICATING WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH IN SPANISH

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM?

- Since 1992, work-related fatalities among Hispanic workers in the United States have increased by more than 50%.
- In the year 2000 alone, work-related fatalities among Hispanic workers increased by 12% in all U.S. industries and by more than 24% in the construction industry.
- Few resources are available to help Spanish-speaking workers and their employers learn about occupational safety and health.

WHAT HAS NIOSH ACCOMPLISHED?

Each year, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) communicates key occupational research findings to the public and decision makers. Targeted efforts to reduce illness and injury among Hispanic workers include translating this information into Spanish and communicating it in ways that are culturally and socially relevant to them.

Examples of program in action:

- NIOSH conducts a Health Hazard Evaluation program to evaluate workplace hazards and recommend solutions when requested by employers, workers, or state or federal agencies. In FY2003, the program increased its capacity to conduct evaluations and disseminate results and recommendations in Spanish. NIOSH is further exploring communication strategies to improve Hispanic workers' accessibility to the program.
- NIOSH began an occupational safety and health Spanish-language answering system for the NIOSH 800-number and a system for responding to e-mail requests in Spanish. In FY2003, during their first year in operation, approximately 900 Spanish-language were answered by these new systems.
- In FY2003, over 12,000 visitors per month accessed Spanish-language occupational safety and health information through NIOSH's all-Spanish-language Web site, *NIOSH en Español*.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

- NIOSH will continue to supplement and enhance the occupational safety and health information provided on the *NIOSH en Español* Web site.
- NIOSH and the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration will co-sponsor a Hispanic Summit on Occupational Safety and Health focusing on communication, training and outreach.
- NIOSH will continue to work with partners to explore best practices for communicating occupational safety and health information to Hispanic-owned small businesses and businesses with a large Hispanic workforce.

Additional information is available at www.cdc.gov/spanish/niosh. For more information on other NIOSH programs, visit www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/pib/.
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