Grant Funding Disclaimer

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Its contents are solely the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC/NIOSH.
Motivation

• Important worker population in Montana

• High risk industries (construction, trucking, home health care, etc)

• Currently, these workers are not captured in our key injury data sources:
  • Bureau of Labor Statistics
  • Workers’ Compensation
    • (unless they opt to have WC coverage)
Main Research Questions:

• Frequency of work-related injuries among independent contractors?
  • Occupations?
  • Nature of injuries?
• If workers’ comp is not covering the costs of injuries, how are they paying for the associated costs?
  • Impact ability to work and pay for necessities?
• Are independent contractors even willing to share this type of information, and self-report?
Data Collection

• Began mailing out postcards with links to an online survey in April 2018
• Postcards were sent to all ICs due for renewal
• In November 2018, sent paper surveys to 3,000 ICs due for renewal
• Offered $100 Amazon gift card raffle
Survey Response Breakdown

- Overall: 395
- Mail: 319
- Web: 76
- Usable: 372
- Unusable: 23
Caveats to the Data

• Self-coding of occupations
• Responses do not always match the expected results
• Skip patterns did not match between the web and paper survey – 18.5% of respondents
• Error with one question
• For ICs who reported an injury and multiple occupations, there is no way to know what occupation they were performing when injured
Questions on Survey

- IC occupations
- Job tenure
- IC or employee injury
- Nature, cause, and part of body injured
- Health issues
- Payer of medical expenses
- Safety resources used
- Importance of safety
- Safety motivation
- Demographics
- Feedback on IC system
Number of IC Occupations Per Person

Percent

1 2 3 4 5

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Race/Ethnicity

Percent

IC Survey  Census

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Sex

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Number of Health Issues

- None: 50%
- 1: 20%
- 2: 10%
- 3: 5%
- 4+: 5%
Where do you get safety & health information related to your occupation(s)?

- Other workers: 60%
- Online: 50%
- Newspapers/radio/magazines: 15%
- Trade unions: 9%
- Safety trainings: 9%
- Social media: 5%
Safety at Work

What motivates you to work safely? – respondents who think safety is important

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motivation</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal safety</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional pride</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support myself and others</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why is safety a lower priority? – respondents who think safety is NOT important

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motivation</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support myself and others</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional pride</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal safety</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Safety Motivation by Age Group

- Pride
- Money
- Time
- Personal Safety
- Support

Percent

- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

Legend:
- Blue: 25-34
- Green: 35-44
- Orange: 45-54
- Yellow: 55-64
- Red: 65+
8% overall reported an injury
7% reported an IC injury

- 8% overall reported an injury
- 7% reported an IC injury

Reported Injuries in Past Two Years

- 30 overall respondents reported an injury
- 26 respondents reported an IC injury
- 19 respondents reported an IC injury as an IC employee
- 6 respondents reported an IC injury as an IC employee during injury
- 3 respondents reported an IC injury as an IC employee during injury and as a non-IC employee
### Top 5 Causes of Injury

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>IC Survey</th>
<th>Claims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strain</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall, slip, or trip</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign matter in eye</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struck by object</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Top 5 Natures of Injury

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature</th>
<th>IC Survey</th>
<th>Claims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sprain, strain</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut, puncture, abrasion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign body</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fracture</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Top 5 Body Parts Injured

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part of body</th>
<th>IC Survey</th>
<th>Claims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hand, finger(s)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulder</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foot, toe(s)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How did you pay for medical expenses related to IC injury?

- My own pocket
- Personal health ins.
- Did not seek medical care
- Medicare/Medicaid
- No medical expenses
- Workers’ comp
Comments/Feedback

• 120 comments
• 50 constructive feedback
• 33 positive
• 15 negative
• 15 commenting on safety
• 7 “other”
Lessons Learned

- Double check skip patterns
- Have someone else test the survey for understanding
- Start right away with mailing paper surveys
- Use address cleaning software to reduce returned mail
Questions?
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