

**Annual Report of Major Outputs & Outcomes**  
**July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**  
**Nebraska Occupational Safety and Health Program (Fundamental)**  
**Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Epidemiology**

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### **Project Overview and Objectives**

The Nebraska Occupational Safety and Health Program (NOSHP) completed its second year of the state-based surveillance grant funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). NOSHP's goal is to build the capacity for occupational health surveillance and ultimately reduce work-related morbidity, mortality, and exposures in Nebraska. The specific aims of the project are to:

- Collect of occupational safety and health information from existing systems
- Develop a surveillance system for chemical poisonings
- Expand the Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance (ABLES) program
- Identify and interact with stakeholders, conduct educational outreach, and disseminate information
- Participate in meetings and conference calls
- Assemble an advisory committee to determine priority projects

### **Major Accomplishments and Outcomes**

#### Occupational Health Indicators

Information was collected from existing surveillance systems in order to calculate and submit all 20 of the NIOSH/CSTE occupational health indicators (OHIs). NOSHP also initiated a data project to better understand worker compensation claims data. A presentation and a report template for disseminating this and future data projects were created. These activities lead to **potential outcomes** as they help shape the direction of NOSHP for education and outreach efforts aimed at workers in high-risk industries and occupations.

#### Pesticide Poisoning Surveillance Program

NOSHP staff continued building upon the Nebraska Pesticide Poisoning Surveillance Program by adding poisoning cases into SPIDER database software using reports from the Nebraska Regional Poison Control Center. Case reports were compared with hospital discharge data in order to identify data gaps and explore additional methods for collecting poisoning cases in the state. **Potential outcomes** of monitoring and recording these poisoning cases include the ability to share data, strengthen collaborations with stakeholders, and focus education efforts to enhance pesticide poisoning prevention efforts across the state.

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Expanding the ABLES Program

NOSHHP continued working with the ABLES program to identify key data gaps, as well determine businesses with high occurrences of adult lead poisoning cases. A **potential outcome** is the capacity to use this information for future education, outreach, and OSHA referrals in order to reduce lead poisoning cases in high-risk industries. The NOSHP and ABLES program also worked together to create surveillance forms to assist with follow-up of lead poisoning cases. These forms collect industry, occupation, and other key information to help identify sources of lead exposure, and they were used by ABLES staff for lead poisoning cases. This process change results in an **intermediate outcome** in that this surveillance system has integrated a new data collection method to improve lead poisoning surveillance in the State.

Collaboration and Communication with Stakeholders

NOSHHP identified new stakeholders and disseminated information during this budget period. The results of a workers compensation data project were presented to stakeholders at the Great Plains Safety and Health Organization Annual Safety and Health Conference. A lecture on occupational lead exposures was also delivered to University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Public Health students. An **intermediate outcome** of these communication efforts is an increased understanding and use of NOSHP data by stakeholders, as well as the incorporation of project data in university curriculum for future public health practitioners.

The project manager also participated in meetings and teleconferences with local and national groups working on issues such as coordinating surveillance efforts in Nebraska and communication strategies for underserved and high-risk worker populations. Participation in meetings that involved adding industry and occupation questions to the BRFSS resulted in a **potential outcome**, as Nebraska included these questions in the 2012 Nebraska BRFSS. This data source will benefit NOSHP and other stakeholders by allowing comparisons of occupation data with behaviors and conditions.