

# **The California Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation**



## **DRAFT - Worker Occupational Safety and Health Training and Education Program (WOSHTEP)**

### **2023 Advisory Board Annual Report**

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# **2023 ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT**

## **Worker Occupational Safety and Health Training and Education Program (WOSHTEP)**

### **I. Executive Summary**

The WOSHTEP Advisory Board is submitting its sixteenth Annual Report in compliance with its mandate in Labor Code section 6354.7 to prepare an annual written report evaluating the use and impact of the programs developed for WOSHTEP.

Between its inception in 2003 and 2023, WOSHTEP has served more than 32,634 workers and over 3,739 small business employers, providing tens of thousands of hours of instruction. In addition, participants in WOSHTEP training sessions often provide training and resources to workers at their workplace, thereby significantly broadening the program's reach. To date, WOSHTEP has offered health and safety information and training to numerous industries, including janitorial services, construction, small manufacturers, corrections and rehabilitation, staffing agencies, food service or restaurants, health care, telecommunications, agriculture, transportation, cities, and schools.

WOSHTEP has developed partnerships with several unions, community-based organizations, business associations, and government agencies to reach worker leaders and employers throughout California.

WOSHTEP activities in 2023 are described in the following pages, including in the Appendix.

### **Overview of WOSHTEP Activities**

#### **2023 Accomplishments**

In 2023, key accomplishments include:

- Conducting 7 Worker Occupational Safety and Health (WOSH) Specialist training sessions in Northern, Central, and Southern California, reaching 156 worker leaders in diverse industries and occupations.
- Conducting 30 Awareness Sessions to educate vulnerable working populations and community-based organizations about occupational safety and health. In 2023, 943 workers were reached through Awareness classes.
- Conducting 5 presentations and/or webinars.
- Continuing to develop the WOSHTEP statewide trainer network through partnerships, community events, and targeted outreach.

- Developing three Spanish-language heat illness prevention videos to educate farmworkers about their right to water, rest, and shade during outdoor work. The videos are available on the [CHSWC's WOSHTEP website](#), [Cal/OSHA Training Academy website](#) and the [WCAHS YouTube Channel](#).
- Continuing to advance the development of members of the Southern California Community Health Promotoras Committee for Workplace Safety and Health to serve as community educators and leaders who can effectively advocate for the prevention of injury and illness among vulnerable Latino immigrant workers. Highlights include:
  - Participation in and development of awareness sessions, Training of Trainers (TOT) and Specialist courses, as well as one-on-one mentorship with workplace and community leaders.
  - Collaboration with Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTC) and other community-based organizations to secure opportunities for community health promotores or promotoras to grow as community educators.
- Conducting a statewide Young Worker Leadership Academy in person on February 7-9, 2023. Six academy teams conducted creative community projects.
- Conducting five half-day training sessions, to teach a total of 119 small business owners and managers how to write and implement an effective Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP). This training has also been adapted for staffing agencies and provides information on the dual health and safety responsibilities of staffing agencies, and host employers to protect temporary employees.

As part of this training, conducted with Cal/OSHA Consultation Service consultants, the following materials were disseminated and continue to be updated:

- A guidebook and IIPP template as well as tools and factsheets to aid with implementation of the workplace's IIPP.
- A copy of the generic small business training resource packets developed for WOSHTEP. Copies of the training materials for the janitorial and the restaurant industries, also developed for WOSHTEP, were made available at the IIPP trainings for owners and managers in these industries.
- Materials for a model IIPP Training Program for Agriculture were disseminated at the IIPP trainings for small agricultural business owners and managers to help them to effectively develop and implement their IIPPs. The interactive training program targets staff in

the agricultural industry responsible for creating or implementing IPPs and provides materials such as an IIPP guide and template, a resource list, and tools tailored for the agricultural industry.

- Using the Wildfire Factsheets developed to accompany outreach and education activities to protect workers from [hazardous air quality during wildfires](#) and to [protect workers engaged in debris cleanup operations](#).

The training activities and materials for the Small Business Injury and Illness Prevention Program project were developed in partnership with the California Department of Industrial Relations, Cal/OSHA Consultation, State Compensation Insurance Fund, Small Business California, California Small Business Association, and the California Department of Public Health's Occupational Health Branch. In addition to English, materials have also been developed in Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese. All of the above [Small Business Injury and Illness Prevention Program](#) materials are available on the [Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation \(CHSWC\)](#) website.

### **Past Accomplishments**

Accomplishments from 2003 to 2022 are described in the [WOSHTEP Annual Reports](#) for those years.

[A summary of WOSHTEP publications](#) is available on the CHSWC website.

## **II. Background and Purpose of WOSHTEP**

### **Background**

California is a national leader in worker protection and injury and illness prevention through the implementation of Labor Code section 6354.7, which went into effect January 1, 2003. This provision includes the creation of a Workers' Occupational Safety and Health Education Fund (WOSHEF) administered by CHSWC.

Pursuant to Labor Code section 6354.7(a), insurance carriers that are authorized to write workers' compensation insurance in California are assessed \$100 or .0286 percent of paid workers' compensation indemnity amounts, whichever is greater, for claims reported for the previous calendar year to the Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau (WCIRB). This assessment is then deposited into the WOSHEF. CHSWC uses these funds each year to develop and implement WOSHTEP through interagency agreements with the Labor Occupational Health Program (LOHP) at the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley), the Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program (LOSH) at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (WCAHS) at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis).

CHSWC administers interagency agreements with LOHP at UC Berkeley, LOSH at UCLA, and WCAHS at UC Davis to design and carry out needs assessments with

key constituencies, develop curricula, conduct training, operate a resource library of health and safety resource materials, and build a statewide network of trainers.

### **Purpose and Objectives**

The purpose of WOSHTEP is to promote workplace health and safety programs. WOSHTEP focuses on developing injury and illness prevention skills among workers and their representatives, who can then take a leadership role in promoting workplace health and safety. This program is delivered through a statewide network of training providers.

CHSWC's mandate for WOSHTEP is to:

- Develop and provide a core curriculum addressing competencies for effective participation in workplace injury and illness prevention programs, and on joint labor-management health and safety committees.
- Develop and provide additional training for any or all of the following categories:
  - Industries on the high hazard list.
  - Hazards that result in significant worker injuries, illnesses, or workers' compensation costs.
  - Industries or trades in which workers experience numerous or significant injuries or illnesses.
- Provide health and safety training to occupational groups with special needs, such as those who do not speak English as their first language, workers with limited literacy, young workers, and other traditionally underserved industries or worker groups.
- Give priority to training workers who can take a leadership role and are able to train other workers or who have significant health and safety responsibilities, such as those either serving on a health and safety committee or as designated safety representatives.
- Provide resources and materials that help small business owners and managers involve their employees in injury and illness prevention efforts.
- Operate one or more libraries and distribution systems of occupational health and safety training materials.
- Establish a labor-management Advisory Board to assist with developing the program and outreach to key constituencies.
- Prepare an Annual Report evaluating the use and impact of WOSHTEP.

- Establish and maintain WOSHTEP and an insurance loss control services coordinator to respond to employer inquiries and complaints:

The loss control services coordinator in CHSWC informs employers of the availability of loss control consultation services, responds to their questions, and investigates complaints about the services provided by their insurer. If an employer and an insurer are unable to agree on a response to a complaint, the loss control services coordinator will investigate and recommend action necessary to bring the loss control program into compliance. Ongoing outreach efforts are being made to reach California employers to let them know what services are available to them from their workers' compensation insurance carrier.

## **Project Team**

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## **Labor-Management Advisory Board**

A labor-management Advisory Board for WOSHTEP has been established, as mandated by legislation. Its role is to:

- Guide the development of curricula, teaching methods, and specific course materials about occupational safety and health.
- Assist in providing links to the target audience.
- Broaden partnerships with worker-based organizations, labor studies programs, and others that can reach the target audiences.
- Prepare an Annual Report evaluating the use and impact of WOSHTEP.

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### **III. WOSHTEP Components**

#### **WOSH Specialist Training Program**

The WOSH Specialist training curriculum is intended to build knowledge and skills in many areas of injury and illness prevention. In order to be recognized as WOSH Specialists and receive a certificate of completion, participants in the WOSH Specialist training are required to successfully complete the core curriculum, which consists of six modules, plus a minimum of three supplemental modules relevant to their workplace. Materials are printed in English, Spanish, and Chinese and are updated regularly.

The WOSH Specialist training sessions are offered statewide. These classes have been adapted for online delivery.

#### ***Core Curriculum***

The core curriculum addresses competencies for effective participation in workplace injury and illness prevention programs and on joint labor-management health and safety committees. The core curriculum consists of the following modules:

- Promoting Effective Safety Programs
- Identifying Hazards in the Workplace
- Controlling Hazards in the Workplace
- Health and Safety Rights and Responsibilities
- Workers' Compensation and Return-to-Work Programs
- Taking Action

#### ***Supplemental Modules***

Supplemental modules on the following topics have been developed to address the participants' needs:

- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Chemical Hazards and Hazard Communication
- Communicating Effectively about Workplace Health and Safety
- How Adults Learn Best: Sharing Health and Safety Information in the Workplace
- Preventing Musculoskeletal Disorders: Introduction to Ergonomics

- Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
- Wildfire Smoke exposure at the workplace
- Workplace Emergency Preparedness
- Workplace Health and Safety Committees
- Workplace Violence Prevention
- Workplace Stress

In addition to the supplemental modules noted above, the WOSHTEP centers (LOHP, LOSH and WCAHS) have also integrated information and learning activities on COVID-19 and the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Program Standard into the WOSH Specialist curriculum.

### **WOSH Specialist Training**

Pilot training concluded in August 2004. During the remainder of 2004 and through 2023, 299 WOSH Specialist training courses (including the four pilot trainings) were conducted in Northern, Central, and Southern California, as described in the Advisory Board Annual Reports for 2004 through 2022 and in this report for 2023. To date, 5,699 WOSH Specialists have been trained in Northern, Central, and Southern California.

In 2023, 7 WOSH Specialist courses were conducted. See the Appendix to this report for descriptions of the 2023 WOSH Specialist training sessions. These classes have undergone an extensive evaluation with guidance from an outside evaluation consultant.

### ***WOSH Specialist Refresher Training***

Refresher training sessions have been provided regularly since 2005 to WOSH Specialists who have attended a specialist course. Refreshers have been held in English and Spanish, with some sessions involving simultaneous interpretation in Spanish and Chinese. Refresher training is held in a variety of settings to assist WOSH Specialists in carrying out activities they pursue in their workplace after completing the WOSH Specialist training. In these training sessions, WOSH Specialists discuss successes and challenges they face in implementing injury and illness prevention practices learned during the WOSH Specialist course. Revised training materials and new health and safety resources are distributed, and updates such as changes in workers' compensation laws and the Cal/OSHA Heat Stress standard are discussed.

To date, refresher training sessions have been conducted for over 800 WOSH Specialists. Refresher trainings from 2005 to 2022 are described in the Annual

Reports for those years. Refresher training sessions are offered on an as-needed basis.

### ***Statewide Network of WOSH Specialist Course Trainers***

To begin development of a statewide network of trainers in 2005, as mandated by the Labor Code, LOHP and LOSH developed a Training of Trainers (TOT) program and offered the first two WOSH Specialist TOT courses in April and July 2005. TOT courses from 2006 through 2022 are described in the Annual Reports for those years and in the Appendix of this year's annual report.

TOT courses are taught as needed. To date, 455 WOSH Specialists from Northern, Central, and Southern California have been trained to be trainers. These "network trainers" from Northern, Central, and Southern California have been delivering WOSH Specialist course modules in English and Spanish since 2006. Trainers within the California Prison Industry Authority were identified several years ago and were trained to conduct WOSH Specialist trainings for inmate workers. This training continued for years. Trainers for Contract Costa County continue to co-facilitate WOSH Specialist trainings for employees who are designated safety officers. Outreach to identify network trainers is ongoing.

### ***Follow-up with WOSH Specialists and Trainers***

LOHP, WCAHS and LOSH have each developed a group email list for Northern, Central, and Southern California WOSH Specialists and trainers. Through periodic communication, WOSH Specialists and trainers are invited to meetings and events that will supplement their knowledge of workplace health and safety and injury and illness prevention practices. In addition, LOHP and LOSH publish and email newsletters in English and Spanish to update WOSH Specialists on workplace health and safety actions and on upcoming courses or skill-building conferences and workshops. Articles are written by program staff, WOSH Specialists, and trainers. Also, articles published monthly in WCAHS' bilingual *Proximamente* training newsletter are distributed to individuals who have previously attended a WOSHTEP-sponsored training. Article topics have included hazard assessment and control, underlying causes of workplace injuries, and COVID-19 best practices.

Safety messages are also shared on the WCAHS Facebook, Twitter and Instagram social media accounts. LOHP and LOSH have WOSH Specialist Facebook pages to encourage Specialists to stay in touch with one another and with WOSHTEP staff about health and safety issues that arise in their workplaces. Efforts are made to implement alternative ways to communicate with WOSH Specialists who do not have access to a computer and with those who do not speak English.

### ***WOSH Specialist Accomplishments***

WOSHTEP staff follow up with WOSH Specialists to learn about their accomplishments and challenges since completing the training. WOSH Specialists have reported a range of accomplishments since the program's inception. Key

accomplishments are listed in the WOSHTEP Annual Reports for 2003 through 2022 and in this report.

### **Awareness Sessions and Presentations**

LOHP, LOSH, and WCAHS have also conducted shorter Awareness Sessions, drawing on the WOSH Specialist curriculum, to help promote awareness of workplace health and safety issues and interest in the WOSH Specialist course. In 2023, 30 awareness classes were held, attended by 943 participants. To date, 25,882 workers have been reached through Awareness Sessions.

In 2023, 5 presentations were given.

In 2010, LOSH developed an Awareness Module “Preventing Workplace Injuries and Illnesses” in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Awareness Sessions and Presentations in 2004-2022 are described in the Annual Reports for those years.

See the Appendix to this report for detailed descriptions of 2023 Awareness Sessions, Promotora Trainings, and Presentations.

### **State Building & Construction Trades Council of California, AFL-CIO (SBCTC)**

In 2009-2010, LOSH prepared a building trade needs assessment report and published a report of its findings titled “Opportunities to Integrate Worker Health and Safety Education into Building Trades Apprenticeship Programs”. The report includes an overview with background information on the current conditions of worker health and safety in Apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs and the construction industry. Assessment methods, findings, and recommendations are then detailed. The report concludes with the next steps, including plans for pilot testing and disseminating adapted WOSHTEP materials and suggestions for areas of future exploration.

In 2011, in partnership with the SBCTC, LOHP and LOSH completed and disseminated a [Construction Case Study Training Guide](#), based on the needs assessment report, with adapted WOSH Specialist curriculum materials. The Guide includes trade-specific health and safety case studies, including green job case studies, which can be incorporated into pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training on health and safety and on green jobs. WOSHTEP staff continue to promote the Case Study Guide at training sessions and encourage its use.

These materials continue to be promoted during training sessions and provided on an ongoing basis.

In addition, LOHP developed a [factsheet](#) to address the hazards of applying spray polyurethane foam insulation, a common task aimed at increasing energy efficiency. The factsheet is for construction industry apprentices and contractors.

In 2019, in order to expand WOSHTEP's work with apprenticeship programs and to reach young and new workers, LOHP developed and conducted health and safety training in pre-apprenticeship programs for students learning about auto repair and the medical assistant profession. These training sessions were conducted in partnership with SEIU in Sacramento and Oakland in August, and with Jewish Vocational Services in San Francisco in October. Eleven auto mechanic pre-apprentices and 17 medical assistant pre-apprentices attended the classes.

### **Small Business Health and Safety Resources for Training Employees**

In 2005, WOSHTEP launched an effort to develop industry-specific training guides for employers to use to teach their employees essential health and safety skills. These training guides were introduced in 2-hour training programs for owners and managers of small businesses in these industries during the first few years after WOSHTEP was established. A generic training guide for general industry was also developed. These guides are now distributed during the program's current activities focused on small businesses – WOSHTEP's IIPP training. See more details on the training programs and guides below.

#### ***Restaurant Supervisor Safety Training Program***

In partnership with the State Compensation Insurance Fund, Cal/OSHA Consultation, and the California Restaurant Association, LOHP and LOSH completed the first set of health and safety resources for owners and managers of small restaurants in June 2005. Materials for the Restaurant Supervisor Safety Training Program include a training guide for two short training sessions and tip sheets on the most common restaurant hazards, which managers can use to tailor training to the specific hazards in their own restaurant. This training also includes information regarding training and supervising young workers. The [materials](#) are available in English, Spanish, and Korean.

#### ***Protecting the Safety and Health of Restaurant Workers***

In partnership with the Koreatown Immigrant Worker Alliance (KIWA), LOSH developed materials for training restaurant workers in hazard identification and control and injury prevention. The materials, which include a workbook in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Korean](#), were based on a needs assessment conducted by KIWA with restaurant owners in Los Angeles.

Since November 2005, 27 workshops have been held, reaching over 293 owners or managers from over 183 restaurants or food-service programs. In addition, materials are being shared across the country. Oregon OSHA is posting restaurant tip sheets on its website. Materials developed for the restaurant industry are now being

distributed to the employers from restaurants attending the Small Business IIPP training, described below.

### ***Small Business Safety Training Program for General Industry***

In 2007, generic health and safety training materials were developed and pilot-tested for small businesses across many industries. These materials include training activities that owners and managers of small businesses can conduct with their employees, as well as additional resources to help them. Since 2007, 20 general small business workshops on how to provide health and safety training to their employees have been held, reaching 423 owners or managers of over 240 small businesses. The general industry [training guide](#) is now distributed during the Small Business IIPP trainings, described below.

In 2008, federal OSHA also funded LOHP to develop a national version of the WOSHTEP general Small Business Resources training packet, which is posted online and distributed at training workshops with other state partners.

### ***Janitorial Industry Safety Training Program***

In 2008, LOHP developed a Small Business Safety Training Program for the janitorial industry. This project began with a needs assessment, which included interviews with seven janitorial employers about health and safety hazards and training needs. Employers identified English and Spanish as the primary languages spoken by janitors, as well as Chinese, Tagalog, and Arabic.

Training materials include activity sheets and discussion questions to spark conversation between management and employees. On the back of the activity sheet is a list of tips that both management and employees can use to improve health and safety at work. Since 2009, over 178 owners and managers in over 57 businesses have received this training in partnership with the Pacific Association of Building Service Contractors and the Independent Maintenance Contractors Association in both Northern and Southern California.

[Materials developed for the janitorial industry](#) are distributed to janitorial employers during the Small Business Injury and Illness Prevention Program training, described below.

### ***Injury and Illness Prevention Program for Small Businesses***

In 2012, CHSWC and LOHP designed materials and a training program for small business owners and managers in general industry throughout California to help them reduce work-related injuries and illnesses and comply with Cal/OSHA's IIPP standard.

This effort has been guided by an advisory committee that includes representatives from DIR, CHSWC, Cal/OSHA Consultation Services, the State Compensation Insurance Fund (State Fund), the California Department of Public Health's

Occupational Health Branch, Small Business California, the California Small Business Association, and LOHP. In addition to providing input on developing the project, the partners are also assisting with setting up training and conducting outreach to their constituents.

The training sessions developed are conducted in partnership with consultants from Cal/OSHA Consultation Service and loss prevention specialists from State Fund. To prepare State Fund trainers to co-teach the class with LOHP and LOSH trainers, LOHP and Cal/OSHA Consultation Service trainers conducted a TOT program in 2015 with the State Fund loss prevention specialists. Two TOT programs were held that year.

The Small Business IIPP training project includes:

- A half-day interactive training program targeting owners and managers from small businesses to assist them in creating and implementing their IIPPs. In 2023, WOSHTEP's LOHP staff conducted five virtual IIPP training sessions in Northern California. Information and activities related to Cal/OSHA's COVID-19 Protection Program standard have been included in these trainings. WOSHTEP's LOSH staff conducted two virtual IIPP training programs in Southern California (one in English and another in Spanish). And WCAHS staff conducted four IIPP classes for small business employers and farm labor contractors in the agriculture industry (see description below). A total of 119 participants were reached through the five IIPP trainings in 2023.
- Training materials, including a generic model IIPP guide, template, and program tools, such as a factsheet on promoting employee involvement, a sample accident investigation form, and a hazard-identification checklist.
- All [small business IIPP materials](#) are available online.

Registration and evaluation forms are routinely collected from the participants in the IIPP Small Business training. In 2014, a post-training survey was conducted with 79 respondents, one to 18 months after the training was completed to assess the impact of the project. In their evaluation, most trainees reported that they gained some or a lot of knowledge from the training. Nearly half the trainees reported that they remediated a hazard not addressed before the training. Over half developed or improved the IIPP after the training. Most responded that employee involvement in safety has improved since the training. One particular success highlighted in the evaluation of the training has been that the course is taught with a specialist from Cal/OSHA Consultation Services, who presents information and answers participants' questions. LOHP did a poster presentation at the American Public Health Association annual meeting in November 2014 on the evaluation results.

The small business IIPP training was updated and adapted to be facilitated virtually by Zoom due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The course now requires offline reading and homework assignments ahead of the 2.5-hour interactive class session when conducted remotely. The session also incorporates a module on the

requirements for the [COVID-19 Prevention Plan \(CPP\) per the Cal/OSHA standard](#) that will be in effect through February 2025.

### ***Injury and Illness Prevention Program for Agriculture***

To better serve the needs and address the limited availability of staff working in agriculture, the Central Valley WOSHTEP Resource Center at UC Davis' Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety adapted the standard IIPP presentation for agriculture and reduced the length of the class from 4-hours to 2-hours. During the training session, WCAHS trainers give an overview of the Cal/OSHA IIPP standard and discuss why it is important to conduct effective and timely investigations of occupational injuries and illnesses. An emphasis is given to new requirements and emerging issues. Trainees discuss challenges and potential solutions both for conducting hazard assessment and control as well as for using participatory methods to train workers and involve them in health and safety planning. Cal/OSHA consultants are also present to discuss any potential updates, go over the most common hazards and fines, provide practical solutions, and help answer questions.

In 2023, WOSHTEP's WCAHS staff conducted two IIPP trainings specifically for employers and farm labor contractors in the agricultural industry with a total of 55 participants. To date, 408 farm owners/managers, farm labor contractors, or employees (safety officers, HR, supervisors, etc.) who play a health and safety role in agricultural workplaces have attended an IIPP class on agriculture, conducted by WCAHS at UC Davis.

In addition, as part of the Small Business Program for agriculture, WCAHS staff attend the annual California Farm Labor Contractor (FLC) Association Ag Labor Forum where they host a table and provide information about workers' rights and WOSHTEP trainings. The 2023 event was held in San Luis Obispo and WCAHS had an information table at this forum.

### **Injury and Illness Prevention Programs for Large Employers in General Industry**

In 2012, CHSWC and LOHP also designed a model training program to assist larger businesses throughout California in developing and implementing their IIPPs. The design and materials for this program parallel those for the IIPP training program and materials for small businesses. Training materials, including a generic model IIPP guide, template, and program tools, such as factsheets, a sample accident investigation form, and a hazard-identification checklist were developed.

In 2014-2015, CHSWC and LOHP, together with key partners from Cal/OSHA, the State Compensation Insurance Fund, small business associations, and others, prioritized WOSHTEP's outreach and training efforts to target businesses with 250 or fewer employees and to provide only the half-day training sessions. This decision was made partly because business owners and managers, even at large companies, found it hard to commit to a full day of training. Prior to the decision to offer only the half-day class, 86 participants from 75 employers received the day-long training.

The [general industry IIPP materials](#) are also being used in training sessions conducted nationally and internationally by LOHP. In 2012, LOHP created a national version of the IIPP materials, which have been used around the country.

In October 2014, LOHP adapted its national general industry IIPP training program and taught portions of the class to garment industry union representatives and complaint handlers in Bangladesh. The materials were translated into Bengali for this purpose.

## **Young Worker Health and Safety Programs**

CHSWC believes strongly in the importance of educating young workers and keeping them safe as they enter the workforce. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), in 2018, 360 workers under age 24 died from work-related injuries, including 22 workers (under age 18). The occupational injury rate for young workers aged 15-19 treated in emergency rooms was 1.25 times the rate of workers aged 25 and over. A goal of the WOSHTEP Young Worker Health and Safety Program is to identify unique ways to effectively engage young workers as health and safety promoters at work, at school, and in their community.

### ***Young Worker Leadership Academy***

In 2005, WOSHTEP funding helped support the first Young Worker Leadership Academy (YWLA), held in Anaheim, California. CHSWC co-sponsored this Academy with LOHP, LOSH, the California Center for Civic Participation, and the California Partnership for Young Worker Health and Safety. The goals of the YWLA are to teach youth about workplace health and safety and their rights on the job; help youth identify education, policy, and media strategies to prevent young people from getting hurt on the job; and provide a forum for these youth to plan specific actions in their own communities to promote young worker safety during Safe Jobs for Youth Month in California in May each year.

Following the 2005 Leadership Academy's success, WOSHTEP funding supported two YWLAs each year through 2010, one in Northern California and one in Southern California, held at UC Berkeley in January and at UCLA in February. (See the Annual Reports for 2006-2010 for details.) Starting in 2011, one statewide Academy has been held in Berkeley in February every year. From 2005 to 2023, 133 teams (a total of 530 youth) from communities throughout California have participated in 23 Academies. Additionally, since 2006, 101 YWLA graduates have returned to serve as youth mentors, helping to lead Academy activities and planning and conducting their own outreach activities afterward.

Almost all the YWLA teams (118 teams) have successfully conducted creative activities to promote health and safety among young workers in their communities, usually during Safe Jobs for Youth Month in May. Activities have included:

- Holding workshops at schools and in the community on health and safety hazards.

- Developing new materials, such as wallet cards, buttons, posters, artwork and brochures for youth, and a training video for employers to use with young workers.
- Creating public awareness through school billboards and sponsoring a two-week-long school event with fun activities and young worker health and safety information.
- Media outreach, including being interviewed on a local Spanish-language radio station and developing and airing both radio and video public service announcements (PSAs).
- Policy development, including school board or school-level policies requiring that all youth seeking work permits be provided with information on young worker rights and responsibilities in the workplace, as well as requiring youth in two districts to pass a short quiz.

YWLA teams have reached thousands of people, mainly youth, through these activities. They have also reached many low-wage, Spanish-speaking or immigrant families or community members with little awareness of U.S. workplace laws. After completing a needs assessment with high school teachers in both northern and southern California LOHP developed a COVID policy to safely host 2023's YWLA as a fully in person event for the first time since 2020.

The statewide Young Worker Leadership Academy (YWLA) was held at UC Berkeley's campus on February 7-9, 2023. The Leadership Academy was coordinated by LOHP with significant support from UCLA-LOSH, as well as active participation of other partnership members, including Cal/OSHA, the Labor Commissioner's Office, The United Food and Commercial Workers' Union and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Young people from six different schools or community-based organizations around the state attended, along with four YWLA alumni who served as youth mentors.

In 2023, all six YWLA teams succeeded in creating community projects. The YouthBuild High School team wrote, recorded, edited and posted a [podcast](#) about young worker health and safety and wrote this [blog post](#) about their experience. The JR Wooden High School team wrote, directed, and acted in a [safety video](#), they submitted it to a film festival and won! The Nava College Prep team hosted an after school "mini YWLA" with stations where students could participate in different activities from YWLA and earn prizes. The Warehouse Workers Resource Center team created and distributed the YWLA pamphlet.

Two other teams hosted events for their peers, creating Kahoot games, and addressing other health and safety topics like silicosis that are impacting their communities. We were thrilled with how much effort each team put into creating a community project that would share this critical information with their peers!

As a result of the 24 Academies held from 2005 to 2023, a network of youth who can help promote workplace health and safety in their communities has been developed.

### **Young Worker Leadership Academy Guide**

With additional funding from the California Wellness Foundation, LOSH and LOHP developed a 64-page guide, "[Teens Speak Out for Safety on the Job: Lessons Learned from the Young Worker Leadership Academy](#)," to share the YWLA model with organizations in California and nationwide. This guide describes the YWLA process and includes all the teacher instructions, handouts, and other materials needed to set up an Academy. This model has been shared with organizations and agencies around the country through the national Young Worker Safety Resource Center. The guide has been used by the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH) to conduct seven of its own Young Worker Leadership Academies since 2008, and by the New Zealand Young Workers Resource Centre.

### **Carve-Out Program**

#### ***Carve-Out Conference***

With the assistance of LOHP and LOSH WOSHTEP staff, CHSWC planned and conducted a statewide conference on workers' compensation carve-outs and the promotion of injury and illness prevention activities. The August 2007 conference, attended by approximately 200 people, included three workshops and a presentation on how employers and unions either currently participating in a carve-out or considering establishing a carve-out can build injury and illness prevention activities into their program. Prevention activities that were promoted included establishing health and safety committees and conducting health and safety training and hazard investigations. Interest expressed in other roundtables and discussions with constituents since this conference indicates the need for another carve-out conference.

#### ***Carve-Out Materials for the WOSH Specialist Course***

Materials necessary for teaching the WOSH Specialist course to unions and employers participating in a carve-out have been developed. The materials were also adapted for use in the construction industry. In 2007, the new materials were used in a WOSH Specialist course for members of labor unions who are participants in a workers' compensation carve-out.

### **Wellness Roundtable and Booklet**

On July 16, 2008, CHSWC hosted a roundtable discussion called Workplace Wellness: How to Address Both Occupational and Lifestyle Issues on the Job. Seventeen people attended the program, including three national experts on the subject. A number of recommendations, described in the 2008 and 2009 WOSHTEP

Annual Reports, were made at the meeting and guided the development of materials and training programs.

In 2010, a wellness booklet, "[The Whole Worker: Integrating Wellness & Occupational Health and Safety Programs](#)," was developed by LOHP. The objectives of this booklet are to:

- Develop a general understanding of what constitutes an integrated approach to health promotion and occupational health and safety programs.
- Explore barriers to integration of workplace health promotion and workplace health and safety programs.
- Identify strategies for overcoming challenges to integration of programs.
- Identify resources for promoting programs that address worker health in a holistic fashion.

The booklet provides examples of specific wellness/health promotion programs that integrate wellness and occupational health and safety as well as resources on both areas of improving health in the workplace.

### **WOSHTEP Resource Centers**

Resource Centers at LOHP, WCAHS, and LOSH continue to house and act as distribution systems of occupational safety and health training materials, including, but not limited to, all those developed by WOSHTEP. These centers provide information and technical assistance.

New health and safety materials are added to the WOSHTEP Resource Centers on an ongoing basis. These materials are identified by staff through attendance at meetings and conferences, as well as through literature searches and review of the weekly *Cal/OSHA Reporter*.

### ***Central Valley Resource Center Development***

In 2007, the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) Western Center on Agricultural Health and Safety (WCAHS) was identified as an appropriate partner for extending WOSHTEP to the Central Valley. WOSHTEP staff were hired in 2008 and mentored by LOHP. WOSHTEP's Central Valley Resource Center staff have recruited participants and conducted WOSH Specialist training every year as well as conducted activities to promote heat stress prevention and developed agriculture-related small business projects.

In 2008, the first agricultural industry to be selected for development of a targeted small business model was dairy. This selection was made at the suggestion of the WOSHTEP Advisory Board and with the support of a researcher at UC Davis who could help develop and promote small business health and safety resources for the

dairy industry. A *fotonovela* with basic information on how to handle and move cattle, a particularly hazardous activity responsible for most injuries among dairy workers, was developed and is part of the educational packet.

[The Dairy Safety Training materials](#) were finalized in English and Spanish in 2010, and training programs were offered to dairy owners and managers beginning in 2011.

Technical assistance on agricultural safety and health is provided on an ongoing basis and as requested. In 2014, the Spanish version of the booklet was provided to the Environmental and Occupational Health program of the Migrant Clinician Network so that it could print 700 copies for use in conducting educational sessions.

### **Multilingual Health and Safety Resource Guide**

LOHP developed a Multilingual Health and Safety Resource Guide for CHSWC, and it is a free online resource for finding health and safety information in multiple languages. It consists of worker training materials, such as factsheets, checklists, and other resources that can be printed for distribution to employees participating in workplace IPPs.

The Multilingual Health and Safety Resource Guide covers a broad range of topics, including identifying and controlling hazards, legal rights and responsibilities, ergonomics, chemical hazards, and violence prevention. It also provides information on hazards in specific industries and occupations, including agriculture, construction, health care, and office work.

Resources in the Guide are available in over 23 languages, including Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Croatian, Haitian Creole, Hmong, Japanese, Khmer/Cambodian, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Swahili, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese. [The Multilingual Health and Safety Resource Guide](#) is updated regularly, most recently in November 2022.

### **Websites**

Information about WOSHTEP can be found in the [WOSHTEP section](#) of the Commission's website. The website promotes public access to and awareness of WOSHTEP and products developed for the program. These materials include a WOSHTEP brochure, materials developed for WOSHTEP trainings, and a multilingual health and safety resource guide. In addition, [Labor Occupational Health Program \(LOHP\)](#), [Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety \(WCAHS\)](#), and [Labor Occupational Safety and Health \(LOSH\)](#) maintain linked websites with information on WOSHTEP and health and safety resources.

## **Database and Evaluation**

CHSWC, LOHP, LOSH and WCAHS track data from all trainings. The WOSHTEP staff track program participants and create reports that will facilitate evaluation of the program.

About five years after the inception of the program, an independent evaluation consultant designed and tested a comprehensive evaluation plan for two elements of WOSHTEP: the WOSH Specialist course and the Small Business Restaurant Supervisor Safety Training workshop. The evaluations are described in the 2008 and 2009 WOSHTEP Annual Reports. Evaluation results indicate that both programs have had a positive impact on workers and employers.

Since that time, the WOSHTEP team has been conducting course evaluations after each of the WOSH Specialist training sessions. The feedback from the course evaluations has been very positive. Staff also conduct follow-up surveys with Specialists once or twice a year to assess whether they have been able to take positive actions in their workplace. The WOSHTEP team collects anecdotal information through these surveys on steps taken to improve health and safety as well as challenges faced. These stories are often presented in Resource Center newsletters.

The WOSHTEP centers have again conducted a more formal evaluation of the WOSH Specialist classes, engaging the evaluation consultant who conducted the evaluation in 2008-2009. The evaluation covered classes taught in 2018-2022 and included a post-test/evaluation and a follow-up survey sent two months following the class. In addition, the centers conducted follow-up phone calls with participants to collect stories. These follow-up phone calls were not part of the formal evaluation.

Data collection for the most recent evaluation was concluded in April 2022. The consultant concluded her analysis and provided a final report.

## **Industries and Occupations Served by WOSHTEP to Date**

To date, WOSHTEP has provided health and safety information or training to numerous industries, including janitorial, construction, small manufacturers, corrections and rehabilitation, health care, telecommunications, food service or restaurants, laundry, agriculture, transportation, schools, refineries, warehousing, garment work, meat packing, retail including food, recycling, and state and local government.

## **National Outreach**

WOSHTEP is gaining national recognition through CHSWC, LOHP, and LOSH presentations at national and state conferences, such as the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC), the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the American Society of Safety Professionals, the American Public Health Association, the National Council

for Occupational Safety and Health, the Annual Conference of the California Community Health Workers Network, and the Labor Research Action Network, as well as through articles written for publications such as the *IAIABC Journal*, *Public Health Reports*, the Bureau of National Affairs SafetyNet monthly newsletter, *New Solutions: A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy*, and the quarterly magazine for Foodservice Consultants Society International (FCSI) and ongoing publication of industry-specific reports.

## **APPENDIX: 2023 WOSH Specialist Trainings, Training of Trainer Courses, Refresher Trainings, Injury and Illness Prevention Program Trainings, Awareness Sessions, Presentations, Promotores Trainings and Webinars**

### **WOSH Specialist Trainings**

- A WOSH Specialist course for CLEAN Carwash Worker Center members was conducted virtually by LOSH trainers on January 17, 19, 24, 26, 31 and February 2, 7, 9, 16, 21, 23 for 20 participants, in Spanish.
- A WOSH Specialist course for Central Valley worker leaders was conducted virtually by LOHP and UC Merced CLC trainers on February 28, March 2, 4, and 7, and 9 for 17 participants, in English.
- A WOSH Specialist course for Community Health Promoters from Esperanza Community Housing was conducted virtually by LOSH trainers on March 17, 20, 22, 27, 29 and April 3, 7 for 29 participants, in Spanish.
- A WOSH Specialist course for an open enrollment audience was conducted virtually by WCAHS and LOHP trainers on April 18, 20, 25, and 27 for 23 participants, in English.
- A WOSH Specialist course for Contra Costa County employees was conducted virtually by LOHP trainers and Contra Costa County trainers on May 16, 18, 23, and 25 for 27 participants, in English.
- A WOSH Specialist course for an audience of High Road Training Partnership participants and an open enrollment audience was conducted virtually by LOHP trainers on August 15, 17, 21 and 24 for 20 participants, in English.
- A WOSH Specialist course for an open enrollment audience was conducted virtually by LOHP trainers on October 17, 19, 24, 26 for 20 participants, in English.

### **Training of Trainers (TOT) Courses**

- A TOT course for Community Health Promoters on Emergency Preparedness at Work was conducted in person by LOSH trainers on June 10 for 11 participants, in Spanish.
- A TOT course for worker leaders on Hazard Identification and Controls was conducted in-person by LOSH trainers on December 7 for 12 participants, in Spanish.

### **Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) Trainings for Small Businesses**

- An IIPP training course for Small Businesses was conducted virtually by an LOHP trainer on June 15 for 32 participants, English.
- An IIPP training course for Small Businesses was conducted virtually by LOHP trainers on June 29 for 20 participants, in English.
- A 3-hour session for an IIPP training course for small businesses was conducted virtually by one LOHP trainer in partnership with a Cal/OSHA Consultation specialist and with a representative from State Compensation Insurance Fund on July 20 for 30 participants, in English.
- An open enrollment IIPP course was conducted virtually by LOSH trainers on August 31 for 29 participants, in English.
- An open enrollment IIPP course was conducted virtually by LOSH trainers on September 7 for 8 participants, in Spanish.

### **IIPP Trainings for Small Business in Agriculture**

- IIPP open enrollment training course was conducted in person for the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA) by a WCAHS trainer on May 12 for 37 participants, in Spanish.
- An IIPP open enrollment training course was conducted virtually by a WCAHS trainer on June 2 for 18 participants, in English.

### **Awareness Sessions**

- A 1.5-hour Awareness Session was conducted in person by a WCAHS trainer on Heat Illness Prevention on February 7 for 58 participants, in Spanish.
- A 1.5-hour Awareness Session was conducted in person by a WCAHS trainer on Heat Illness Prevention on February 7 for 65 participants, in Spanish.
- A 1.5-hour Awareness Session was conducted in person by a WCAHS trainer on Heat Illness Prevention on February 8 for 58 participants, in Spanish.
- A 1.5-hour Awareness Session was conducted in person by a WCAHS trainer on Heat Illness Prevention on February 8 for 60 participants, in Spanish.
- A 1.5-hour Awareness Session was conducted in person by a WCAHS trainer on Heat Illness Prevention on February 9 for 38 participants, in Spanish.
- A 1.5-hour Awareness Session was conducted in person by a WCAHS trainer on Heat Illness Prevention on February 9 for 46 participants, in Spanish.

- A 1.5-hour Awareness Session was conducted in person by a WCAHS trainer on Heat Illness Prevention on March 7 for 50 participants, in Spanish.
- A 1.5-hour Awareness Session was conducted in person by a WCAHS trainer on Heat Illness Prevention on March 7 for 43 participants, in Spanish.
- A 1.5-hour Awareness Session was conducted in person by a WCAHS trainer on Heat Illness Prevention on March 8 for 48 participants, in Spanish.
- A 1.5-hour Awareness Session was conducted in person by a WCAHS trainer on Heat Illness Prevention on March 8 for 46 participants, in Spanish.
- A 1.5-hour Awareness Session was conducted in person by a WCAHS trainer on Heat Illness Prevention on March 9 for 52 participants, in Spanish.
- A 1.5-hour Awareness Session was conducted in person by a WCAHS trainer on Heat Illness Prevention on March 9 for 50 participants, in Spanish.
- A 1-hour and 45-minute Awareness Session was conducted in person by two LOHP trainers at Oakland Technical High School in Oakland, CA on finding and controlling hazards, worker rights, and taking action on April 8 for 7 participants, in English.
- A 2-hour Awareness Session was co-facilitated in person by LOSH staff and WOSH Specialists/Community Health Promoters on the topic of identifying workplace hazards on April 12 for 15 participants, in Spanish.
- A 2-hour Awareness Session was co-facilitated in person by LOSH staff and WOSH Specialists/Community Health Promoters on the topic of controlling workplace hazards on April 19 for 15 participants, in Spanish.
- A 1-hour and 30-minute Awareness Session was conducted virtually by an LOHP Trainer for students at Diablo Valley Community College in Pleasant Hill, CA, on Work as a Social Determinant of Health on April 24 for 6 participants, in English.
- A 2-hour Awareness Session was co-facilitated in person by LOSH staff and WOSH Specialists/Community Health Promoters on the topic of workers' rights on April 26 for 18 participants, in Spanish.
- A 1.5-hour Awareness Session was conducted in person by a WCAHS trainer on Heat Illness Prevention on May 30 for 28 participants, in English.
- A 1-hour and 30-minute Awareness Session was conducted in person by an LOHP trainer for the Labor Research Action Network Conference at Georgetown

University in Washington D.C., on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Skills in Organizing on June 8 for 10 participants, in English.

- A 1-hour and 30-minute Awareness Session was conducted in person by two LOHP trainers for the 2023 cohort of interns at the OHIP Orientation program in Los Angeles, CA, on OSH Connections to Social and Environmental Health on June 21 for 20 participants, in English.
- A 1-hour and 30-minute Awareness Session was conducted virtually by one LOHP trainer for employees at the National Employment Law Project in Oakland, CA, on hazard identification and root cause analysis on June 27 for 14 participants, in English.
- A 2-hour and 30-minute Awareness Session was conducted in person by one LOHP Trainer on ergonomics and chemicals at South of Market Community Action Network (SOMCAN) on July 26 for 14 participants, in English with Tagalog interpretation.
- A 2-hour Awareness Session was conducted in person by one LOHP Trainer on workplace violence at South of Market Community Action Network (SOMCAN) on August 9 for 8 participants, in English with Tagalog interpretation.
- A 2-hour Awareness Session was conducted in person by two LOHP Trainers on ergonomics, chemicals, wildfire smoke at Dolores Street Community Service Day Labor Center on September 6 for 14 participants, in Spanish.
- A 2-hour Awareness Session was co-facilitated in person by LOSH staff and a WOSH Specialist/Community Health Promoter on the topic of workplace violence on September 11 for 21 participants, in Spanish.
- A 2-hour Awareness Session was conducted in person by LOHP trainers for members of La Colectiva and the Day Laborer Program in San Francisco, CA on chemicals, smoke, and ergonomics on September 22 for 29 participants, in Spanish.
- A 1.5-hour Awareness Session was co-facilitated virtually by LOSH staff and a WOSH Specialist/Community Health Promoter on the topic of workers' rights on October 27 for 33 participants, in Spanish.
- A 1.5-hour Awareness Session was co-facilitated virtually by LOSH staff on the topic of Chemical Hazards on November 6 for 36 participants, in English.
- A 1.5-hour Awareness Session was co-facilitated virtually by LOSH staff and a WOSH Specialist/Community Health Promoter on the topic of workers' rights on November 20 for 21 participants, in Spanish.
- A 2-hour Awareness Session was facilitated in-person by LOSH staff on the topic of workplace violence December 8 for 20 participants, in English.

**Presentations, Promotores Trainings and Webinars conducted during which WOSHTEP curriculum and materials were promoted**

- A 1.5-hour presentation was held online by a WCAHS staff member on wildfire smoke health and safety on July 26, in Spanish.
- A 1.5-hour presentation was held online by a WCAHS staff member on wildfire smoke health and safety on July 26, in Spanish.
- A 1.5-hour presentation was held online by a WCAHS staff member on heat illness on July 26 for 26 participants, in Spanish.
- A 1.5-hour presentation was held online by a WCAHS staff member on heat illness on July 28, in Spanish.
- A 1-hour presentation was held online by a WCAHS staff member on heat illness and wildfire smoke on August 28, in Spanish.