

Indicator 17: Occupational Health and Safety Professionals

Significance

The goal of occupational safety and health professionals is to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses through exposure/hazard identification and prevention. An adequate number of professionals in the fields of occupational medicine, occupational health nursing, industrial hygiene, and safety are needed to ensure safe workplaces.

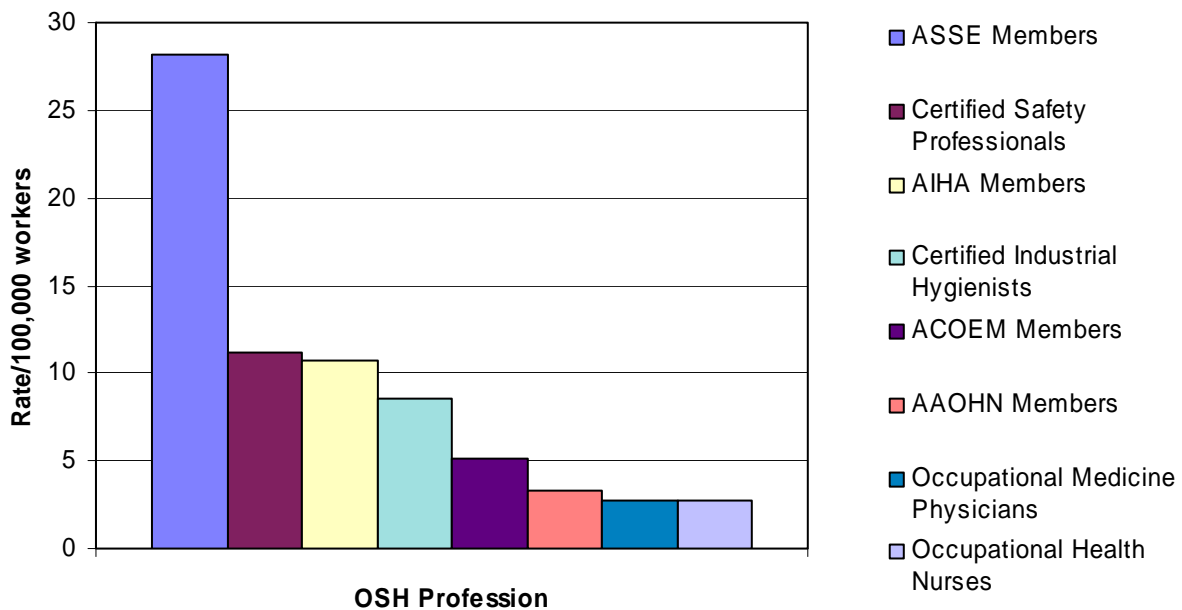
Methods

The number of professionals and rate per 100,000 employees in Colorado for 2003 to 2008 are reported using data from the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN), American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) and Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Current Population Survey Data employment numbers are used to calculate rates.

Results

Table 17.1 Occupational Safety and Health Professionals, Number and Rate per 100,000 Employees, Colorado 2003-2008, # (rate)							
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Avg
Occupational Medicine Physicians from the American Board of Preventative Medicine	61 (2.6)	64 (2.7)	68 (2.8)	72 (2.9)	74 (2.9)	74 (2.8)	70 (2.8)
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) Members	123 (5.3)	134 (5.6)	123 (5.1)	130 (5.2)	125 (4.8)	121 (4.7)	126 (5.1)
Certified Occupational Health Nurses from the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN)	65 (2.8)	66 (2.8)	70 (2.9)	74 (3.0)	64 (2.5)	65 (2.5)	67 (2.7)
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN) Members	83 (3.6)	90 (3.8)	77 (3.2)	79 (3.2)	79 (3.1)	79 (3.0)	81 (3.3)
Certified Industrial Hygienists from the American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH)	209 (9.0)	198 (8.3)	220 (9.2)	216 (8.6)	215 (8.1)	215 (8.3)	211 (8.6)
American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Members	277 (11.9)	281 (11.8)	277 (11.5)	263 (10.5)	243 (9.7)	243 (9.3)	265 (10.4)
Board Certified Safety Professionals from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP)	263 (11.3)	266 (11.1)	272 (11.3)	281 (11.2)	287 (11.4)	285 (11.0)	277 (11.2)
American Association of Safety Engineers (ASSE) Members	640 (27.5)	697 (29.2)	745 (31.0)	684 (27.4)	685 (26.55)	713 (27.4)	694 (28.1)
<p><i>Source: American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN), American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), and Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey (numerator);; Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Current Population Survey Data (denominator)</i></p>							

Figure 17.1 Average rate of occupational safety and health professionals per 100,000 workers, Colorado 2003-2008



- For every 100,000 employees in Colorado for the years 2003 to 2008, there is an average of 3 certified occupational medicine physicians, 3 certified occupational health nurses, 9 certified industrial hygienists and 11 certified safety professionals. (Table 17.1 and Figure 17.1)

Data Sources

- American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) diplomats database (www.abprevmed.org) (numerator)
- Annual roster of members of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) (www.acoem.org) (numerator)
- American Board of Occupational Health Nurses (ABOHN) Directory (www.abohn.org) (numerator)
- Annual roster of members of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN) member directory (www.aaohn.org) (numerator)
- American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH) (www.abih.org) (numerator)
- American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) member directory (www.aiha.org) (numerator)
- Board Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) member directory (www.bcsp.org) (numerator)
- American Association of Safety Engineers (ASSE) member directory (www.asse.org) (numerator)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Current Population Survey Data (denominator)

Limitations

- Other occupational safety and health fields are not included, such as health physics, ergonomics and occupational health psychology.

- Member lists include retired and part-time professionals and therefore may overestimate the number of active occupational and safety professionals.

Recommendations

- Recruit occupational health and safety professionals to work in Colorado.
- Increase the number of students in the occupational safety and health field being trained in Colorado.