Short-Term Construction Work Assignments Linked to Musculoskeletal Pain

Length of time spent working on a commercial construction site and the associations with worker characteristics

Emily H. Sparer, Cassandra A. Okechukwu, Justin Manjourides, Robert F. Herrick, Jeffrey N. Katz, and Jack T. Dennerlein. American Journal of Industrial Medicine, September 2015.

Overview

Construction workers move frequently from jobsite to jobsite, yet little is documented about length of stay on-site and its associations with worker characteristics. The research team surveyed 989 workers employed on four large commercial construction projects to investigate associations between worker characteristics – including race, ethnicity, trade and reported musculoskeletal pain – and length of stay on-site.

Key Findings

■ Approximately 56% of workers remained on the worksite for at least one month.

■ Fifty-seven percent of Non-Hispanic white workers spent more than one month on the job site, while only 43% of Hispanic workers did.

■ Seventy percent of plumbers and pipefitters, 63% of sheet metal workers and 62% of electricians spent more than one month on the jobsite, while only 39% of heavy equipment operators, piledrivers and elevator constructors did.

■ Workers who spent less than a month on the site before moving on were somewhat more likely to report musculoskeletal pain overall, and more than twice as likely to report musculoskeletal pain occurring in a single specific body part.

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Read the complete study:
http://bit.ly/2HxR67F

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