Safety Benefits of Mandatory OSHA 10 Hour Training

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Overview

In the past decade, six U.S. States (Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New York, and Missouri) have passed laws requiring workers employed on publicly funded construction projects to receive a standard 10-hour OSHA-authorized hazard awareness training course prior to work. One state, Nevada, has mandated "OSHA-10" for all construction workers. The researcher investigates the effect of these laws on reported construction injury and fatality rates with a model that seeks to control for relative union density and the impact of the 2008-2009 recession.

Key Findings

- Overall, states with OSHA-10 training mandates saw a declining rate of fatalities during 2008-2011; those without such a mandate saw an increasing fatality rate during the same period.
- Passage of OSHA-10 laws was associated with a 1.2-1.3% decline in reported injuries when controlling for union density and recession effects in accordance with the model. Though highly encouraging, the results fell short of statistical significance.
- The short duration of trend data, and the significant impact of injury underreporting, cloud these results and indicate the need for further study and more reliable data sources.

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