



Reaching Small Contractors through Community-Based Organizations

Using Community-based Organizations and Partnerships to Enhance Reach and Engagement of Small Construction Establishments

Sue Ann Sarpy, Alicia Stachowski. CPWR Small Study, 2023.

Overview

Small construction establishments—defined as those with fewer than 20 employees—experience a disproportionate share of fatal work injuries and increasing rates of non-fatal injuries. It remains a challenge to share safety and health information with these establishments and the vulnerable workers they often employ. To address this need, a community-based process targeting CPWR’s Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP) was developed and tested. ECWTP aims to train, certify, and secure jobs for economically disadvantaged workers living in the communities surrounding U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Superfund National Priorities List sites and brownfields sites. It currently operates in Boston; East Palo Alto, California; Flint, Michigan; and New Orleans. Program participants, including those working in small construction businesses, were surveyed regarding the importance of safety and critical safety needs for construction workers in their communities.

Key Findings

- The process of using ECWTP community and organizational networks was not successful in reaching small construction businesses directly but was effective in reaching at-risk individuals in underserved communities to assess their safety needs.
- Study respondents indicated that safety is extremely important for construction workers in their communities and reported that safety training (88%), safety at the worksite (85%), and availability of safety equipment (82%) were the most important factors in supporting worksite safety.
- Respondents identified time pressure and emphasis on production (60%) and lack of training (54%) as the greatest safety challenges that construction workers face in their communities.
- Eighty-six percent of those surveyed were interested in learning more about CPWR and the safety information it provides, suggesting use of the study’s process for further targeting and disseminating evidence-based solutions directed at the safety needs of at-risk workers in these communities.
- This process and related outcomes can also be used to test and adapt safety solutions developed by the CPWR Research to Practice Roundtable on Small Employers at Disproportionate Risk, as well as building capacity for translation research.

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Read the report:

<https://bit.ly/443l2Sg>

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