



Study Protocol: Can a Training Program Reduce WMSD Injuries for Masonry Apprentices?

Safety Voice for Ergonomics (SAVE) project: protocol for a workplace cluster-randomized controlled trial to reduce musculoskeletal disorders in masonry apprentices

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Overview

Masons have the highest rate of overexertion injuries among all construction trades and rank second for occupational back injuries in the United States. However, ergonomic safety training is often limited or non-existent, and workers may lack the “soft skills” needed to respond to unsafe work environments. Researchers have designed a safety training intervention (SAVE, or Safety Voice for Ergonomics) to address both factors, and are preparing a randomized controlled trial to test the intervention’s efficacy.

Key Findings

- The SAVE program for apprentices contains content on ergonomics and on “safety voice” – how to address unsafe conditions effectively on the jobsite.
- The study will include masonry training centers across the United States, with all consented apprentices within a center randomly assigned to three treatment groups: those receiving the full SAVE curriculum, those receiving instruction in ergonomics only, or a control group with no additional instruction.
- The research team will assess each participant on knowledge of ergonomic issues, work practices, WMSD symptoms, and other indicators at baseline, two weeks later at the conclusion of training, six months later, and twelve months later.
- The researchers hypothesize that those who receive SAVE training will achieve more benefits than those who received only ergonomics training or no additional training.

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See study:

<http://bit.ly/1VCI7Gh>

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