

Seeking Use of Research Products/Findings on Residential Construction Sites

Literature Review and Environmental Scan for Better Translation of Research to Practice in Residential Construction

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CPWR Report, December 2013.*

Overview

The estimated size of the residential construction workforce (8.2 million) and the severity of the injury and disease problem support the need for greater safety efforts. This project's purpose was to review existing data and information found in original peer-reviewed articles, meta-analyses and review articles, unpublished reports, and other literature relevant to moving occupational safety and health research into practice in construction and residential construction in particular, and to develop efficient and workable strategies to translate more research into practice in order to improve safety and health among the residential building construction workforce.

Very little research has been done that directly addressed safety research to practice in residential construction; therefore a broader net was cast that captured a larger number of studies judged relevant to improving the translation of research to practice in residential construction. Based on these, we were able to identify barriers to the adoption of better safety and promising strategies to overcome them and move research into practice.

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See full report:

<http://bit.ly/J20em0>

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Key Findings

Barriers include:

- The nature of the work – length of time, location, exposure to weather,
- The structure of the industry, with its wide range of tasks and needed skills, along with the barrier posed by extensive subcontracting of much of the work,
- A lack of awareness of problems and solutions by both controlling firms and employees, and
- The perceived costs associated.

Promising strategies include:

- Hazard inspection and correction-based strategies, such as regulation and enforcement, inspector training to a standard, and incentive programs for managers,
- Commercialization processes that encourage greater involvement and more active roles for all stakeholders in the commercialization and marketing chain,
- Building safety into the industry's increasing use of electronic planning tools,
- Training employee opinion leaders to diffuse an innovation,
- Defining the costs associated with work place injury, and who incurs them; Training accountants in safety & health,
- Encouraging employee and manager cooperation and involvement,
- Taking steps to affect the industry's procurement practices and shift them toward greater safety.



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