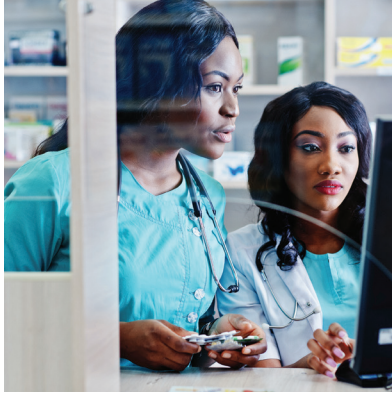
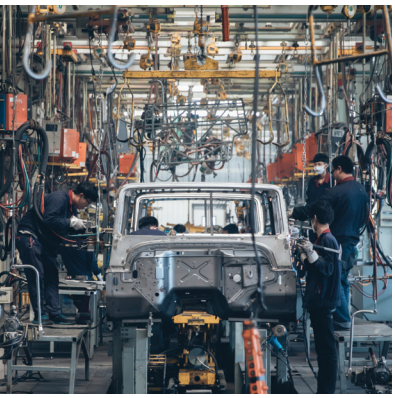
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Worker Training Program





TRAINING TOOL

Opioids and the Workplace:
Prevention and Response

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Worker Training Program has developed a training tool to provide awareness-level training to workers and employers about occupational risk factors for opioid use, misuse, and addiction.

- The tool is designed as a six-hour interactive course.
- The tool is in PowerPoint format and includes five small group activities. Associated materials include three fact sheets, a resource list, an activity worksheet, and instructor tips.
- Organizations and trainers may integrate or adapt these materials into their training programs.

- About 130 people die every day from opioid overdoses.
- In a four-year period, more than 4,300 workers died from opioid overdoses in Massachusetts alone.
- Work-related injury, pain, and stress are all pathways to opioid use, misuse, and addiction.
- There is an urgent need to train workers and employers on how to prevent and respond to the opioid crisis.

The "Opioids and the Workplace: Prevention and Response" training tool addresses the impact of the opioid crisis on workers, the workplace, and the community. It uses the public health model of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention, focusing on injury prevention (primary), access to appropriate treatment for injured workers (secondary), and access to support for treatment or recovery (tertiary). The course concludes with action planning so that participants will begin outlining next steps.

The training tool PowerPoint and associated materials may be downloaded from the NIEHS National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training website at *https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2587*.

Another NIEHS awareness-level training tool, "Prevention of Occupational Exposure to Fentanyl and Other Opioids," is currently available on the Clearinghouse website.

NIEHS grant recipients may be contacted to provide hazardous materials training, including training on opioids and the workplace. Contact information is available at *https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/awardees/*.