

Does Wyoming's Safety Fund:
~~How~~ a little money goes ~~a~~
long way in safety?

Meredith Towle, MPH

State Occupational Epidemiologist

WestON Conference

September 2015



How it works



- ✓ Good standing with Wyoming Workers' Compensation
- ✓ Public, private, any size
- ✓ Up to \$10,000 - 1 year, 10% match

How it works

- Reporting 185 & 365 days post contract



- Equipment
- Engineering Controls
- Training

Why is this important for Wyoming?

- Historically high worker fatality rates
- High percentages of workers in high-risk jobs
- One of only four monopolistic workers' compensation systems

Dec 2012 - May 2015

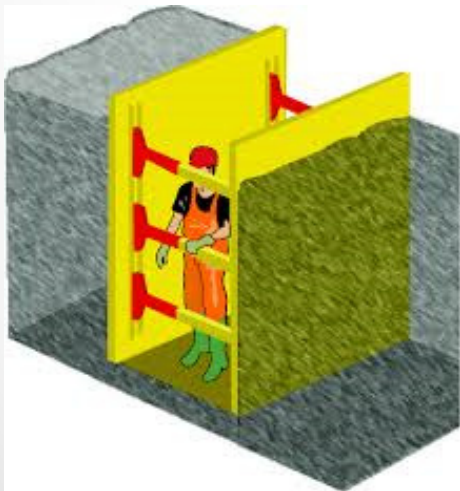
- **92 employers**
 - About **3,600 employees**
- Top industries
 - Construction 35%
 - Manufacturing 14%
 - Healthcare 9%
 - Local Gov't 8%
 - Mining (O&G) 5%

Summary of Grants

Company Size	Percent
Small (≤ 25)	41%
Medium (26-75)	34%
Large (75 +)	24%

Intervention Category	Count	Percent
Safety Equipment	44	48%
Training	21	23%
Respiratory protection/Gas monitoring	8	9%
Ergonomic	7	8%
Training & Safety Equipment	4	4%
Other	5	5%
Unknown	2	2%
Multi-purpose	1	1%
Grand Total	92	100%

What's trending?



Example # 1 - Construction

- Trailer & equipment
- Established a traveling training program
- Reaching employees at state-wide work sites



Example # 2 - Manufacturing

- QR code Lockout/ Tag out program
- Prevents systems from accidentally becoming energized while maintenance is being performed.



Evaluating Impact by Funded Employer

- Contract effective date (CED) delineates the pre/post period
- Used first CED available for each of 92 employers

Pre period = 2 years prior to CED Post period = From CED to 5/15/15



Work Comp ID	Pre Period			Post Period		
	# Claims	# Employees	Claims rate per 100 employees	# Claims	# Employees	Claims rate per 100 employees
Employer1						
Employer2						
Etc.						

**= % change
in rate
pre/post**

Evaluating Impact by Funded Employer

- Contract effective date (CED) delineated a pre/post period
- Used first CED available for each of 92 employers

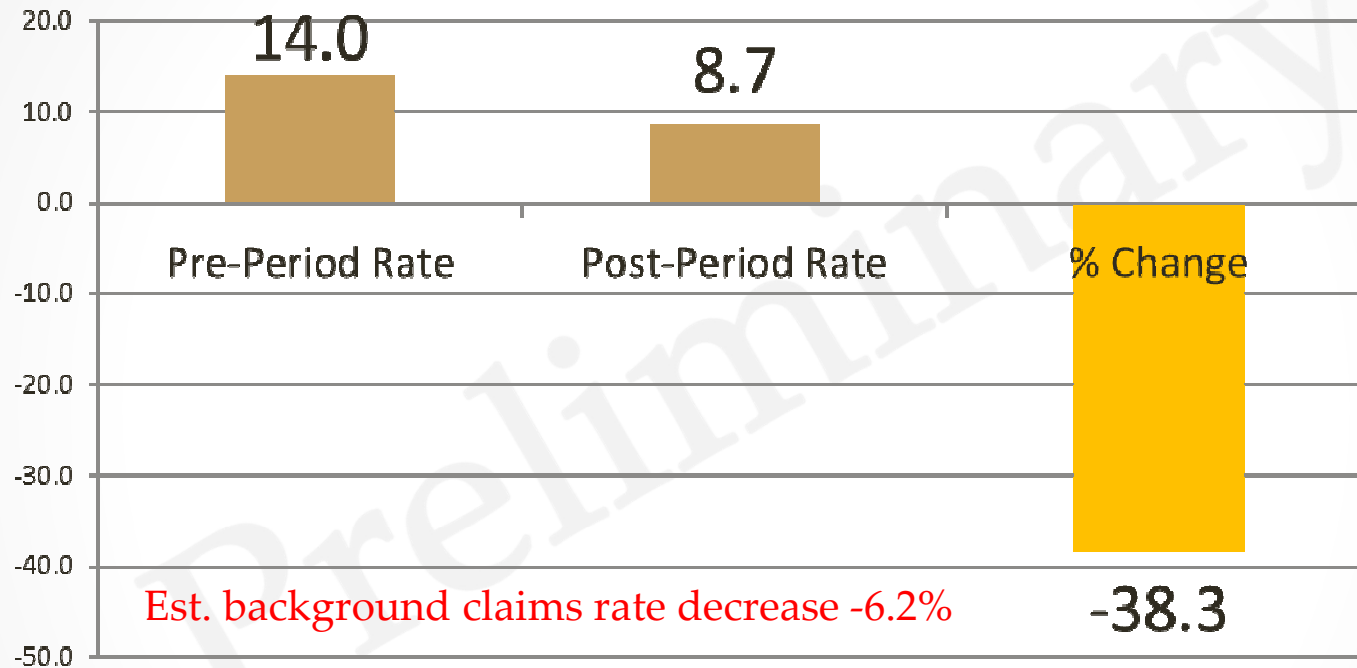
Pre period = 2 years prior to CED Post period = From CED to 5/15/15



Work Comp ID	Pre Period			Post Period		
	# Claims	# Employees	Claims rate per 100 employees	# Claims	# Employees	Claims rate per 100 employees
Employer1						
Employer2						
Etc.						

**= % change
in rate
pre/post**

Average crude claims rate per 100 employed, Funded employers (n=92)



Limitations:

- Pre/post periods are different lengths of time
- Very small sample size
- Numerator & denominator includes employees possibly not affected by intervention

Evaluating Impact by Industry

- Matched funded and not-funded employers by industry (6-digit NAICS)
- Series split = July 1, 2013
 - 33% of all contracts had been funded by then
 - Provided similar pre/post periods

Pre Period =
July 1 2011 to Jun 30 2013 (2 yr)

Post Period =
July 1 2013 to May 15 2015 (~2 yr)



6-digit NAICS	Pre Period					
	FUNDED			NOT FUNDED		
	# Claims	# Employees	Rate per 100	# Claims	# Employees	Rate per 100
NAICS 1						
NAICS 2						
Etc.						

6-digit NAICS	Post Period					
	FUNDED			NOT FUNDED		
	# Claims	# Employees	Rate per 100	# Claims	# Employees	Rate per 100
NAICS 1						
NAICS 2						
Etc.						

Average crude claims rate per 100 employed,
Funded & Non Funded,
Matched industries, (n=59 NAICS groups)

	Pre-period 7/11/11 – 6/30/13	Post-period 7/1/13 – 5/15/15	% Change Pre/Post
Funded	12.2	11.8	-3.8 %
Non Funded	8.9	8.5	-4.4 %

- Data by specific industry varied drastically from above – Sample sizes too small to draw conclusions.
- So many limitations

Anecdotes

Mobile training unit:

*“We have been able to take our training to the job site and do more specific training...We have also used this unit to raise hazard awareness through onsite team building exercises...We have **a stronger, closer knitted team** with positive ownership of safety!”*

Forklift:

*“It was extremely valuable to us in replacing our older (unsafe) all terrain forklift with a newer unit...We were able to secure a bid to manufacturer 20 camper cabins for Flagg Ranch in Grand Teton National Park. Thanks again...for **helping Wyoming businesses thrive!**”*

Audiometric testing equipment & certification for onsite hearing tests:

*“[This] is helping to educate employees on the health hazards associated with exposure to hazardous levels of noise. It will help them **become proactive in understanding, valuing and protecting** their sense of hearing.”*

Evaluation

- Are we reaching the right industries?
- Are employers utilizing the program appropriately?
- Does this fund raise awareness about safety?
- Does this fund reduce injuries?



Happy



Happy



Proud



Confused

Evaluation

- Are we reaching the right industries?
- Are employers utilizing the program appropriately?
- Does this fund raise awareness about safety?
- Does this fund reduce injuries?



Happy



Happy



Proud



Confused

If dreams come true

1. Continue the grant program.
2. Revisions to model the Ohio BWC program
3. Improve data collection to improve evaluation.



Special thanks:

- Laurie Knowlton, DWS Risk Manager
- NIOSH CWCS (Wurzelbacher et al., AJIM, 2014)

Contact:

meredith.towle@wyo.gov

307-777-7671

wyomingworkforce.org/data/epidemiology



