Working in Occupational Health

Lessons from Nebraska Newbie

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Howdy from NEBRASKA

Punching Cattle on a Jack Rabbit
Case Study
Occupational Exposures to Antineoplastic Drugs in an Oncology-Hematology Department

INTRODUCTION

Approximately 100 antineoplastic drugs are used for the treatment of cancer and other diseases. Commonly referred to as chemotherapy drugs, antineoplastics act by preventing or inhibiting the growth of neoplasms. However, due to the
Observe your surroundings and trust your gut
Kenneth Evett, 1954
Estimated nonfatal occupational injury and illness rates, Nebraska, 2014, from BLS SOII

Injury/illness rate in meatpacking 3x higher than all Nebraska private industries.
Embrace your environment and find your niche
Embrace the occupational health community
Nothing to be afraid of just jump right in
How many workplace injuries and illnesses occur in Nebraska?

Fatal Work Injuries

39

Fatal work-related injuries in 2013


Number of Fatal Injuries in 2013 by Event Type:

- Transportation incidents
- Contact with objects/equipment
- Violence/persons/animals
- Falls, slips, trips
- Exposure to harmful substances
Learn how to swim in data
Motivation
Status Quos worth changing

Work-related injuries and illnesses are not preventable
Work-related injuries and illnesses are preventable
Status Quos worth changing

• Work-related injuries and illnesses are not preventable

• Occupational health is not integrated into public health practice
Public health core functions

- Research
- Monitor Health
- Diagnose & Investigate
- Inform, Educate, Empower
- Mobilize Community Partnerships
- Develop Policies
- Enforce Laws
- Link to / Provide Care
- Assure Competent Workforce
- Evaluate

Policy Development

Assurance
Neb. Rev. Stat. 81-601:
Department of Health and Human Services; powers.

“shall have general supervision and control over matters relating to public health”
Status Quos worth changing

• Work-related injuries and illnesses are not preventable

• Occupational health is tightly integrated into public health practice

• Occupational health disparities are inevitable
“The injury we have is for the rest of our lives. And every day, I can feel the bones in my legs, hands, and fingers curving. With no job and no access to insurance, then I can no longer live a normal life. It is a life with pain.”

-Meatpacking worker, 2016
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