

Work Safe Work Smart

A curriculum targeted to adolescent health and safety in the workplace

Almost 80% of students have held jobs by the time they finish high school. Unfortunately, adolescents are often not prepared to recognize potential hazards as they enter the workforce. The *Work Safe Work Smart* curriculum addresses that issue by raising student awareness of workplace hazards and the steps that can be taken to reduce the risk of injury or death.

Original Development and Pilot Testing (1997-2001)

The *Work Safe Work Smart* curriculum was originally developed during 1997-2001 by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) through a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH): Grant R01CCR514360, “Enhancing Agricultural Safety and Health Through Education”, David Parker, MD, PI; Teresa Hillmer, MPH, PhD, Project Director. MDH is solely responsible for its content.

The curriculum was originally pilot-tested in eleven high schools in three rural Minnesota counties. Five schools taught the curriculum to ninth and tenth graders, while the other six schools served as controls. One pre-test and two post-tests were administered in all eleven schools. Full acknowledgements for the curriculum development and pilot testing are listed in “Credits” in the Introduction section of the curriculum (pages i-ii).

Randomized Field Evaluation and Dissemination (2000-2004)

A much larger and group randomized evaluation of the curriculum was conducted during 2000-2004. This full field evaluation involved over 4,000 students among 38 rural Minnesota high schools (18 intervention schools, 20 control schools). As with the pilot test, one pre-test and two post-tests were used to evaluate the impact of the curriculum on student knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs regarding occupational health and safety. This field evaluation and subsequent dissemination of the *Work Safe Work Smart* curriculum was supported by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH Grant R01OH004220). Minnesota Department of Health staff with the Center for Occupational Health and Safety who have participated in the evaluation of the curriculum:

Cynthia Hickman, MPH
Paula Lindgren, MS
Debby (Merchant) Langner, MS

Wendy Brunner, MS
Deborah Hill, MPH
Allan Williams, MPH, PhD

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We are gratefully acknowledge the staff and students at the 38 Minnesota high schools involved in the evaluation of the curriculum during the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 school years as part of the *Youth at Work* project:

Albert Lea
Bemidji Senior
Buffalo Lake-Hector
C-G-B Secondary
Cook County Secondary
Dawson-Boyd Secondary
Fergus Falls Senior
Fulda Secondary
Glenville-Emmons Senior
Greenway Senior
Hayfield Secondary
Henning Secondary
Hinckley-Finlayson Secondary
Jefferson Senior
Kingsland Senior
Lesueur-Henderson Secondary
Lincoln Secondary
Marshall County Central Secondary
Morris Area Secondary

Milaca Secondary
Montevideo Senior
Murray County Central Secondary
Nevis Secondary
New London Spicer
Nicollet Secondary
Norman County West
Northland Secondary
Owatonna Senior
Parkers Prairie Secondary
Pelican Rapids Secondary
Pine Island Secondary
Red Rock Central Secondary
Sebeka Secondary
St. Peter Senior
Tracy Secondary
Tri-County Secondary
Underwood Secondary
United South Central Senior

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Trina Olson

Morris Area Secondary

Ann Streed

Nevis Secondary

Liz Eischens
Janet Golden-Landquist

Owatonna Senior

Georgia Brenden
Char Ost
Val Rose
Maia Sheie

Parkers Prairie Secondary

Jayne Arvidson
Dean Yocum

Pelican Rapids Secondary

Vicki Huck
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Tracy Secondary

Brian Michelson

Underwood Secondary

Virgil Evavold

United South Central Senior

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B.J. Anderson	Children, Families and Learning
Ann Bajari	Meeker-Mcleod-Sibley Public Health
Nancy Cowell	Sibley East Junior High
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Peter Hannan	University of Minnesota
Deborah Hennrikus	University of Minnesota
Jan Kellner	MN CFL Lifework Development
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2012 Curriculum Update

The *Work Safe Work Smart* curriculum was updated in the summer of 2012 with support from NIOSH (5U60OH009855). The updates included revised child labor laws, numerous updated facts and figures related to youth labor, and a complete revision of Worker Safety and Health Educational Resources with a focus on web-accessible materials and information. We are grateful to Teresa Hillmer, MPH, PhD for her careful review and revisions. Thanks also to Adrienne Kari, MPH, for her review and web assistance.

The curriculum can be accessed using Adobe Acrobat Reader (version 4.0 or higher). A free Adobe Acrobat Viewer can be downloaded from the Adobe web page at www.adobe.com. The curriculum can be printed on a variety of printers including inkjet or laser printers, in color or black and white. If you have any questions, please contact the Center for Occupational Health and Safety, Minnesota Department of Health at:

Web: www.health.state.mn.us/occhealth
e-mail: health.workerhealth@state.mn.us
Phone: 651-201-5900

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Allan N. Williams, MPH, PhD, Director
Center for Occupational Health and Safety
Minnesota Department of Health
allan.williams@state.mn.us