Indicator #17: Occupational Safety and Health Professionals

Background & Public Health Significance

Physicians with training and/or special interests in occupational medicine provide both primary, secondary and tertiary occupational health preventive services. In 1989, the American Medical Association recommended that there be one physician per 1,000 employees. Occupational health nurses provide a great deal of onsite occupational health care. Industrial hygienists and safety professionals are typically the primary individuals responsible for evaluating workplaces and making recommendations to prevent occupational injuries and illnesses.


Rationale:

Work-related injuries and illnesses are preventable. It is important to determine if there are sufficient trained personnel to implement occupational health preventive services.

Limitations

Other important occupational health specialties such as fire prevention, health physicists, ergonomists are not included.

The numerator data include retired individuals and individuals who may devote the majority of their time to research and limited or no time to provision of actual preventive services. An individual may practice part-time or even full-time in the field of occupational health and not be board certified or a member of the organization representing occupational health professionals. The completeness and frequency of updating addresses varies by each organization. Members are often listed in a database by a preferred address, which may not be the address where they practice. Due to privacy concerns, individuals may opt out of being listed in membership rolls.
Indicator #17: Occupational Safety and Health Professionals cont.

Rate of Board-Certified Occupational Medicine Physicians, VA and US

Rate of ACOEM Members, VA and US

Rate of Board-Certified Occupational Health Registered Nurses, VA and US

Rate of AAOH Members, VA and US

Rate of Board-Certified Safety Health Professionals, VA and US

Rate of ASSE Members, VA and US

Rate of Board-Certified Industrial Hygienists, VA and US

Rate of AIHA Members, VA and US

*Rate per 100,000 employees

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