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The Impact of Ohio BWC Funded Ergonomics Interventions on Claims Reduction and Return on Investment

I. Al-Tarawneh and M. Lampl

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
Columbus, Ohio, USA

Corresponding author's Email: abe.tarawneh@bwc.state.oh.us

Abstract: The preferred approach to the prevention and control of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) in the workplace is to design the job taking into account the capabilities and limitations of the worker. Jobs should be designed to minimize MSD risk factors, such as excessive forces, awkward postures and repetitive motions. The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Safety Grant program has provided funding to companies over the past eleven years to assist in reducing the risk of MSDs in the workplace. As part of the program, BWC collects data to assess the reduction in exposure to MSDs as a result of the interventions. This data includes the cost of the intervention, number of employees affected by the intervention, number of hours worked, and injury data. This data is used to determine the injury rates before and after the intervention along with the ROI for the implementation of the intervention. This presentation will summarize the results of the most frequently applied ergonomics interventions. The Safety Grant applicants represent a variety of industries, including construction, manufacturing, health care, and public employees. While the ROI varies by type of intervention, on average the data shows that ROI for 11 types of interventions (1318 total interventions) range between 6 and 31 months. Examples of these interventions include lift tables, man-lifts, and powered cots..

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