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Enhancing Worker Advocacy: OSHA's Outreach to Diverse Worker Populations

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Background and Objectives: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has a number of outreach programs for underserved, diverse worker populations. Throughout the country, OSHA Area Offices have formed alliances with consulates, worker centers, unions, media, community, and faith-based organizations to bring worker health and safety information and training to these populations. The objectives of this poster presentation are to:

- Identify successful approaches to communication with low-income and minority worker groups.
- Explore the role of worker centers, clinics, and other community organizations as worker representatives for occupational safety and health actions, such as submitting an OSHA complaint.
- Discover other positive outcomes of these programs, such as enhanced community self-advocacy for both occupational and environmental health threats.

Methods: A questionnaire will be designed to describe and quantify outreach programs to minority and underserved worker populations and will include outcome measures and roles of collaborative organizations. The questionnaire will be sent to OSHA Area Offices. Questionnaires will be analyzed. Interviews with Area Office representatives will be performed to clarify and highlight successful initiatives.

Results: OSHA's programs that promote increased worker participation and self-advocacy will be summarized. Outcome metrics will be described and evaluated. Occupational health programs that have led to environmental health policy concerns will be illustrated.

Conclusions: Through OSHA's efforts to collaborate with diverse organizations, underserved workers have increased access to health and safety information and improved ability to take action to create safer work and home environments.