

Workplace Safety & Health Program:

Activities Are Responsive and Preventative, Using Data-Driven Approaches

Proposed Final Report

Elisabeth Donner, JLARC Staff

Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee

June 20, 2012

2011-13 Operating Budget Directed JLARC Study

JLARC's Assignment

Review state's occupational safety and health program, including:

- ♦ Inspections and consultations, and
- ♦ Other compliance assistance resources offered to employers and employees.

Federal Occupational Safety & Health Act of 1970

- Establishes minimum standards.
- Gives states option of administering their own program.
- Monitors state programs including:
 - ♦ Regular reviews (annual and quarterly), and
 - ♦ Ongoing monitoring as rules and policies change in both federal and state programs.

Washington's Standards Are Embodied in WISHA

- Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA) of 1973.
- Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) has primary responsibility for implementation.
- L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) administers WISHA.
 - ♦ DOSH's activities are varied including inspections, consultations, and other compliance assistance resources.

JLARC Identified Six Key Findings

1. Employers & employees have specific responsibilities for ensuring safe & healthy workplaces.
2. DOSH complies with state and federal law.
3. DOSH allocates resources for data-driven prevention activities.
4. DOSH communicates information in a variety of ways.
5. Research found reduction in claims after DOSH activity.
6. Comparisons across state programs are difficult.

Agency Formal Responses

- No recommendations.
- Requested formal responses:

OFM did not have comments

Department of Labor and Industries provided comments, including options the Department believes could further reduce workplace injury and illness claims.

Contact Information

Elisabeth Donner

360-786-5190

Elisabeth.Donner@leg.wa.gov

JLARC

www.jlarc.leg.wa.gov

