

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[30Day-08-0260]

Agency Forms Undergoing Paperwork Reduction Act Review

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes a list of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of these requests, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer at (404) 639-5960 or send an e-mail to omb@cdc.gov. Send written comments to CDC Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC or by fax to (202) 395-6974. Written comments should be received within 30 days of this notice.

Proposed Project

Health Hazard Evaluation and Technical Assistance—Requests and Emerging Problems—Reinstatement (OMB No. 0920-0260)—National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background and Brief Description

In accordance with its mandates under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) responds to requests for health hazard evaluations (HHE) to identify chemical, biological or physical hazards in workplaces throughout the United States. Each year, NIOSH receives approximately 400 such requests. Most HHE requests come from the following types of companies: Service, manufacturing companies, health and social services,

transportation, construction, agriculture/mining, skilled trade and construction.

A printed Health Hazard Evaluation request form is available in English and in Spanish. The form is also available on the Internet and differs from the printed version only in format and in the fact that it uses an Internet address to submit the form to NIOSH. Both the printed and Internet versions of the form provide the mechanism for employees, employers, and other authorized representatives to supply the information required by the regulations governing the NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation program (42 CFR 85.3-1). In general, if employees are submitting the form it must contain the signatures of three or more current employees.

However, regulations allow a single signature if the requester: is one of three (3) or fewer employees in the process, operation, or job of concern; or is any officer of a labor union representing the employees for collective bargaining purposes. An individual management official may request an evaluation on behalf of the employer. The information provided is used by NIOSH to determine whether there is reasonable cause to justify conducting an investigation and provides a mechanism to respond to the requester. In the case of 25% to 50% of the health hazard evaluation requests received, NIOSH determines an on-site evaluation is needed. The primary purpose of an on-site evaluation is to help employers and employees identify and eliminate occupational health hazards. In most on-site evaluations employees are interviewed to help further define concerns, and in approximately 50% these evaluations (presently estimated to be about 100 facilities), questionnaires are distributed to the employees (averaging about 40 employees per site for this last subgroup). The interview and survey questions are specific to each workplace

and its suspected diseases and hazards, however, items are derived from standard medical and epidemiologic techniques.

NIOSH distributes interim and final reports of health hazard evaluations, excluding personal identifiers, to: Requesters, employers, employee representatives; the Department of Labor (Occupational Safety and Health Administration or Mine Safety and Health Administration, as appropriate); and, as needed, other state and federal agencies.

NIOSH administers a follow-back program to assess the effectiveness of its health hazard evaluation program in reducing workplace hazards. This program entails the mailing of follow-back questionnaires to employer and employee representatives at all the workplaces where NIOSH conducted site visits. In a small number of instances, a follow-back on-site evaluation may be conducted. The initial follow-back questionnaire is administered immediately following the site visits. Another follow-back questionnaire is sent a year later. A final follow-back questionnaire regarding the completed evaluation is sent.

For requests where NIOSH does not conduct an onsite evaluation, the requester is sent a follow-back questionnaire 12 months after NIOSH's response and a second one at 24 months. Because of the large number of investigations conducted each year, the need to respond quickly to requests for assistance, the diverse and unpredictable nature of these investigations, and its follow-back program to assess evaluation effectiveness; NIOSH requests an umbrella clearance for data collections performed within the domain of its health hazard evaluation program. There are no costs to respondents other than their time. The total estimated annualized burden hours are 4007.

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

Type of respondent	Form	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average Burden per response in hours
Employees and Representatives	Health Hazard Evaluation Request Form	302	1	12/60
Employers	Health Hazard Evaluation Request Form	118	1	12/60
Employees	Health Hazard Evaluation specific interview example.	4200	1	15/60
Employees	Health Hazard Evaluation specific questionnaire example.	4440	1	30/60
Followback for onsite evaluations for Management, Labor and Requester.	Initial Site Visit survey form	840	1	15/60
Followback for onsite evaluations for Management, Labor and Requester.	Closeout for HHE with an OnSite Evaluation	840	1	15/60
Followback for onsite evaluations for Management, Labor and Requester.	1 year Later HHE with an On Site Evaluation	840	1	15/60

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS—Continued

Type of respondent	Form	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average Burden per response in hours
Followback for evaluations for Management, Labor and Requester without onsite evaluation.	Followback I Survey cover letter and Forms	55	1	10/60
Followback for evaluations for Management, Labor and Requester without onsite evaluation.	Followback II Survey Cover Letter and Forms	55	1	15/60

Dated: June 27, 2008.

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Proposed Project

Work Organization Predictors of Depression in Women—Reinstatement—The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background and Brief Description

Depression is a costly and debilitating occupational health problem. Research has indicated that the costs to an organization of treatment for depression can rival those for heart disease, and both major depressive disorder and forms of minor depression have been found to be associated with more disability days than other types of health diagnoses. This may be of particular relevance for working women. Various national and international studies indicate that women in developed countries experience depression at up to twice the rate of men. Studies that have examined this gender difference have focused on social, personality, and genetic explanations while few have explored factors in the workplace that may contribute to the gender differential. Examples of workplace factors that may contribute to depression among women include: additive workplace and home responsibilities, lack of control and authority, and low paying and low status jobs. Additionally, women are much more likely to face various types of discrimination in the workplace than men, ranging from harassment to inequalities in hiring and promotional opportunities, and these types of stressors have been strongly linked with psychological distress and other negative health outcomes. On the positive side, organizations that are judged by their employees to value diversity and employee development engender lower levels of employee stress, and those that enforce policies against discrimination have more

committed employees. Such organizational practices and policies may be beneficial for employee mental health, particularly the mental health of women.

This research focuses on the following questions: (1) Which work organization factors are most predictive of depression in women, and (2) are there measurable work organization factors that confer protection against depression in women employees?

The research uses a repeated measures, prospective design with data collection at three points (baseline and eighteen months follow-ups). A 45-minute survey is being administered by telephone to 314 women and men at 16 different organizations. The survey contains questions about traditional job stressors (e.g., changes in workload, social support, work roles), stressors not traditionally examined, but which may be linked with depressive symptoms among women (e.g., roles and responsibilities outside of the workplace, discrimination, career issues) depression symptoms, and company policies, programs and practices. Analyses will determine which work organization factors are linked with depressive symptoms and what effect the organizational practices/policies of interest have on depression. Findings from this prospective study will also help target future intervention efforts to reduce occupationally-related depression in women workers. There will be no cost to respondents. The estimated annualized burden for this data collection is 236 hours.

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN

Respondents	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden per response (in hours)
Employees	314	1	45/60