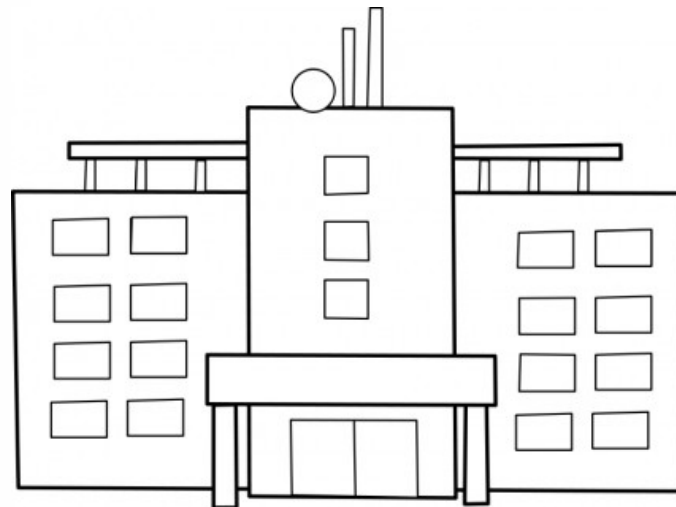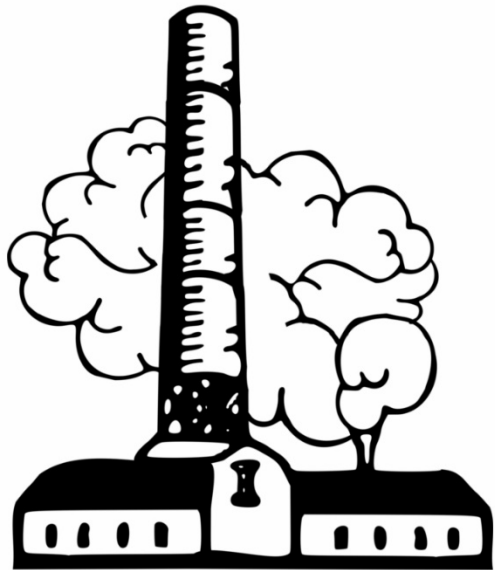# COVID Investigator Training:
Collecting data on
INDUSTRY and OCCUPATION

Sara Wuellner

Washington State Dept. Labor & Industries

June 2020

Why are Industry and Occupation important?

- Identify risk of disease among workers
  - Impact on health care workers
  - Other essential workers
    - Transit bus drivers, grocery store clerks

Lost on the frontline US news

Coronavirus is killing far more US health workers than official data suggests

The Guardian, April 15, 2020

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  - Differences by race/ethnicity in illness rates related to jobs?

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- Develop response and prevention efforts
  - Blunt future waves

With restaurants reopening, workers, owners weigh the benefits and risks
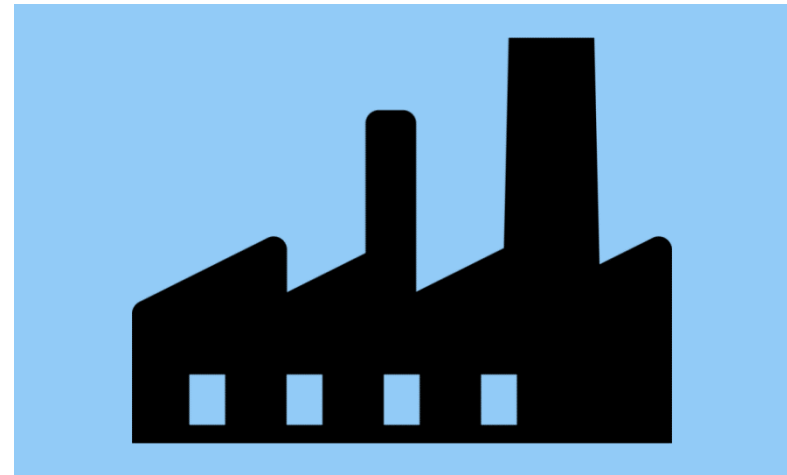
Citizen Times, May 29, 2020

What do we mean by Industry and Occupation?

- **Occupation** – what a person does for work or their job

- **Industry** – type of business or organization

What do we mean by Industry and Occupation?
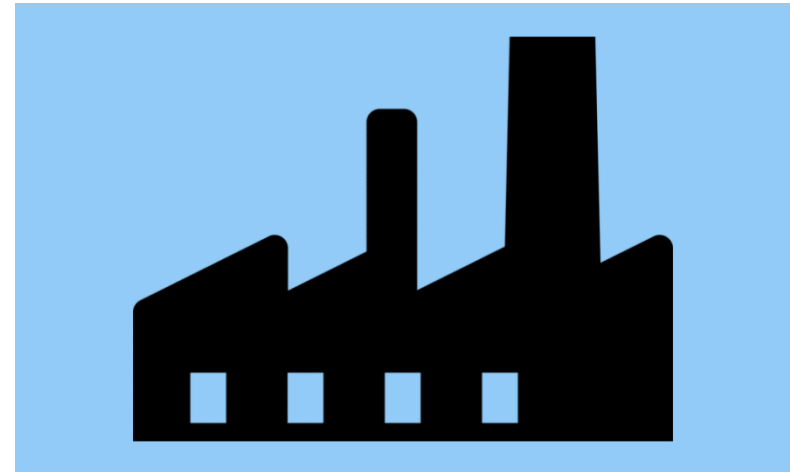
- **Occupation** – what a person does for work or their job
  - Registered nurse
  - Janitor
  - Cashier

- **Industry** – type of business, organization
  - Doctor's office
  - Nursing home
  - Grocery store

Occupation (job)

What is your occupation?
(What kind of work do you do?)

- 1-3 word response

- Brief and specific

- May be job title

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What is your occupation?
(What kind of work do you do?)

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- Physical Therapist
- Elementary school teacher
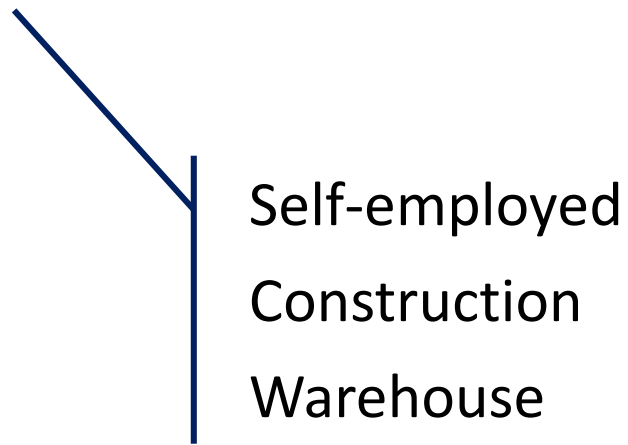- Automobile mechanic

Occupation (job)

When to probe:
- Self-employed
- General, vague response
- Business or workplace

Self-employed

Construction

Warehouse

Occupation (job)

When to probe:
- Self-employed
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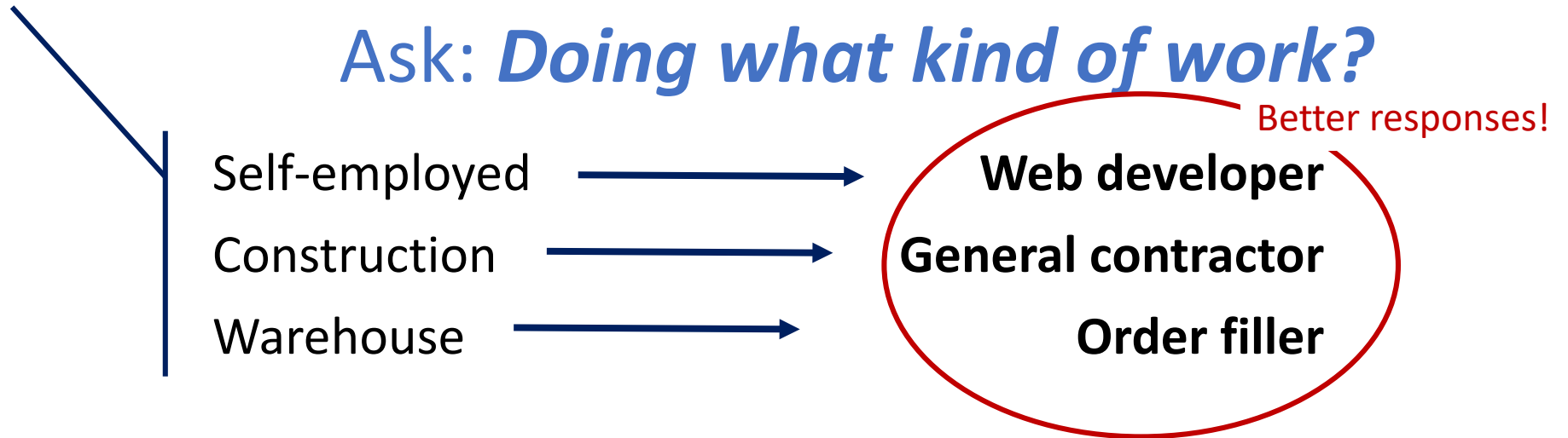Ask: **Doing what kind of work?**

Self-employed

Construction

Warehouse

Occupation (job)

When to probe:

- Self-employed
- General, vague response
- Business or workplace

Ask: *Doing what kind of work?*

Better responses!

Self-employed → **Web developer**

Construction → **General contractor**

Warehouse → **Order filler**

Industry (type of business)

In what industry do you work?

- 1-3 word response

- Brief and specific

- Avoid abbreviations

Industry (type of business)

In what industry do you work?

- 1-3 word response
- Brief and specific
- Avoid abbreviations

- Hospital
- Home health care
- Meat processing plant
- Fast food restaurant
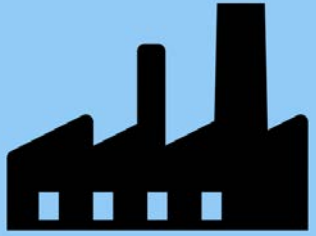
Industry (type of business)

When to probe:

- Business or company name

- General, vague term

Golden Oaks

Tech

Manufacturing

Business owner

Industry (type of business)

When to probe:

- Business or company name
- General, vague term

Ask: **What does the company do?**

Or: **What type of [manufacturing/business]?**

Golden Oaks

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Ask: **What does the company do?**

Or: **What type of [manufacturing/business]?**

Better responses!

Golden Oaks ⟶ **Retirement home**

Tech ⟶ **Software development**

Manufacturing ⟶ **Airplane manufacturing**
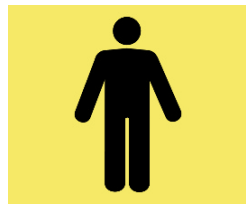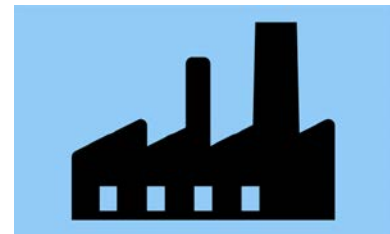
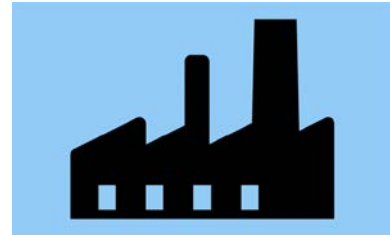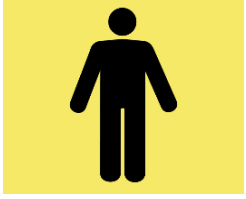Business owner ⟶ **Construction**

Importance of Industry *and* Occupation

Why do we need information on both?

1. More complete description of person's work
   - Better identify work-related risks

2. Helps with coding the data
   - Translate text to codes for analysis

What if a person has more than 1 job?

- Record all jobs
  - Main job first (most hours worked)
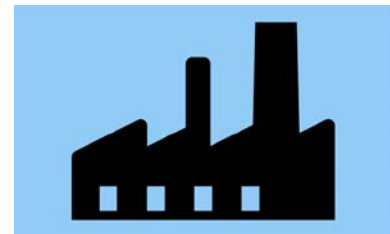
Occupation: Better descriptions

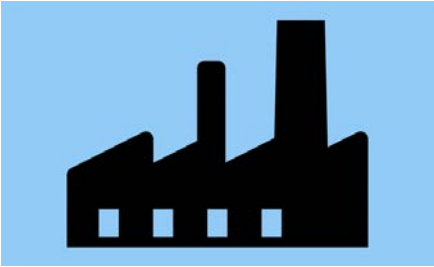| Too general	More descriptive ✔
"Self-employed"	Uber driver Handyman Family Therapist
"Office worker"	Administrative assistant Human resources specialist Payroll clerk
"Healthcare worker"	Mental health counselor Home health aid Pharmacy tech
"Warehouse worker"	Stock clerk Order filler Fruit packer

Industry: Better descriptions

Too general	More descriptive ✔
"Healthcare"	Hospital Nursing Home Home Health Care
"Transportation"	Truck transportation Mass transit
"Hospitality"	Hotel Restaurant Travel agency
"Food"	Food manufacturing Agriculture crop production Restaurant
"Office"	Doctor's office Law office Accounting office

Summary

Occupation	• The kind of work a person does to earn a living
Industry	• The type of business or organization in which a person works
If multiple jobs	• Start with main job. Record all.
Be brief	• 2-3 words usually sufficient
Be specific	• Avoid general, vague terms
Be descriptive	• Clear description of job duties, business

Acknowledgements and Resources