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

The Guardian, April 15, 2020

Lost on the frontline US news
Coronavirus is killing far more US health workers than official data suggests

The Guardian, April 15, 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

• Better understand health disparities
  • Differences by race/ethnicity in illness rates related to jobs?
Why are Industry and Occupation important?

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  - Other essential workers
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- Better understand health disparities
  - Differences by race/ethnicity in illness rates related to jobs?

- Develop response and prevention efforts
  - Blunt future waves

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Lost on the frontline  US news
Coronavirus is killing far more US health workers than official data suggests
The Guardian, April 15, 2020

New York City's Coronavirus Essential Workers Are Overwhelmingly People Of Color
BuzzFeed News, April 21, 2020

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

- 1-3 word response
- Brief and specific
- May be job title
What is your occupation?
(What kind of work do you do?)

• 1-3 word response
• Brief and specific
• May be job title

- 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
- General, vague response
- Business or workplace

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
- Construction
- Warehouse
- Web developer
- General contractor
- 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
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 → Retirement home
Tech → Software development
Manufacturing → Airplane manufacturing
Business owner → Construction

Better responses!
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)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Too general</th>
<th>More descriptive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Self-employed”</td>
<td>Uber driver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Handyman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family Therapist</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Office worker”</td>
<td>Administrative assistant</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Human resources specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payroll clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Healthcare worker”</td>
<td>Mental health counselor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Home health aid</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pharmacy tech</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Warehouse worker”</td>
<td>Stock clerk</td>
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<td>Order filler</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fruit packer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Industry: Better descriptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Too general</th>
<th>More descriptive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Healthcare&quot;</td>
<td>Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nursing Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Home Health Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Transportation&quot;</td>
<td>Truck transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mass transit</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Hospitality&quot;</td>
<td>Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restaurant</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Travel agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Food&quot;</td>
<td>Food manufacturing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agriculture crop production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Office&quot;</td>
<td>Doctor’s office</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Law office</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Accounting office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td></td>
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<td>---------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Occupation</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The kind of work a person does to earn a living</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Industry</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The type of business or organization in which a person works</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>If multiple jobs</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Start with main job. Record all.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Be brief</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2-3 words usually sufficient</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Be specific</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Avoid general, vague terms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Be descriptive</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clear description of job duties, business</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgements and Resources

This training material is based on:
CDC National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Industry and Occupation Module
Interviewer Training (2012)

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Occupational Health Subcommittee
Recommended Interim Guidance for Collecting Employment Information about COVID-19 cases
(June 2020)

CDC National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
Collecting and Using Industry and Occupation Data webpage
https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/coding/default.html