

Janitorial Workload Newsletter



Janitorial Workload Study – Updates

Issue 1, Volume 2

Welcome to Spring 2022! We hope you are staying safe and healthy. We'd like to share some updates on the project. Here's what we've been working on:

JANITORIAL WORKLOAD SURVEY - COMPLETED

- A survey of janitors from across WA was conducted from November 2019 through February 2020
- We published a paper describing the survey methods and some results ([read the paper free here](#), or [read the summary](#)). We are still analyzing the data and will be publishing more results soon:
 - 21% of janitors reported that they were diagnosed by a health-care professional with a work-related injury or illness (women had a higher risk than men; Latino janitors had a higher risk than White janitors)
 - Only half (52%) of janitors who reported being injured or made ill at work reported that they filed a workers' compensation (WC) claim
 - Workers reported differences in working conditions that may play a role in injury risk, such as not being able to take breaks or leave, and concerns about inadequate staff and supplies

WORKLOAD ASSESSMENTS – COMPLETED

- Our researchers visited janitors in the field to observe and record how janitors complete their tasks. While the COVID-19 pandemic stopped these assessments earlier than planned, we believe the calculator is reliable. We may conduct more visits in the future.

WORKLOAD CALCULATOR – IN DEVELOPMENT

- All of the data we are collecting are being used to develop a workload calculator – a freely available standalone tool to help employers and labor groups to determine safe workloads (to help plan for contracts, assign staffing levels, evaluate job workload, and provide directions for improvement). A beta version for testing will be available Summer 2022.

INJURED WORKER INTERVIEWS - ONGOING

- We conduct telephone interviews with janitors who have been injured or made ill on the job and who file a workers' compensation claim. These interviews gather details about the hazards and what happened, so we can identify common hazards and help prevent future injuries. We have interviewed 23 janitors so far.

SURVEY OF JANITORIAL BUSINESSES – COMPLETED

- We conducted an online survey of janitorial companies to learn about issues from the business perspective, but only 25 companies responded to our survey. We will send out another survey to businesses in Spring/Summer 2022.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING DOCUMENTS – ONGOING

- We publish a free quarterly newsletter and tip sheet – [visit our website](#) to find publications ([en español](#))
- If you have suggestions for topics or trainings – please let us know!

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FOR THE RESEARCHERS? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

- [Sign](#) up for our quarterly newsletter about the study, email JanitorStudy@Lni.wa.gov. or call 1-888-667-4277, press 2 for Janitor Workload Study
- Para más información: [Suscríbese a nuestro boletín](#) trimestral sobre el estudio, correo electrónico JanitorStudy@Lni.wa.gov, o llama 1-888-667-4277, oprima 2 para el estudio Sobre la Carga de Trabajo de Janitors