DOSH Consultation Activities Show Increasing Effectiveness
Workers’ Compensation Claims Rates after DOSH Consultations, 2003-2016

Percent change\(^1\) in compensable claims\(^2\) rate at fixed-site industries\(^3\):
Worksites receiving a DOSH consultation\(^4\) visit compared to those with no DOSH visit.

- Consultations at fixed-site businesses in recent years are associated with claims rate reductions of 10-15% more than rate reductions at comparable worksites with no DOSH visits.

- Results for consultations in non-fixed industries such as construction have varied more widely. In recent years, claims rates at businesses receiving a consultation have fallen 3-7% beyond those at worksites not receiving any DOSH activity.

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1. Each year’s result is expressed by the average percent change from the five years of annual studies ending in that year, i.e. 2016 reflects the average one-year percent change in claims rates for consultations from 2012 through 2016.
2. Compensable claims include those involving wage replacement for lost work time (4 or more days), total permanent disability, fatality, or a worker kept on salary by the employer during disability.
3. Fixed-site industries are those where the physical location of the work is fixed over time. Examples are factories, doctor’s offices, schools and farms. Industries such as construction and trucking are “non-fixed”.
4. Washington State Department of Labor & Industries Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) consultations are requested by an employer to identify workplace hazards. Violations found during a consultation do not result in citations, but must be corrected by the employer.


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