

## The Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health

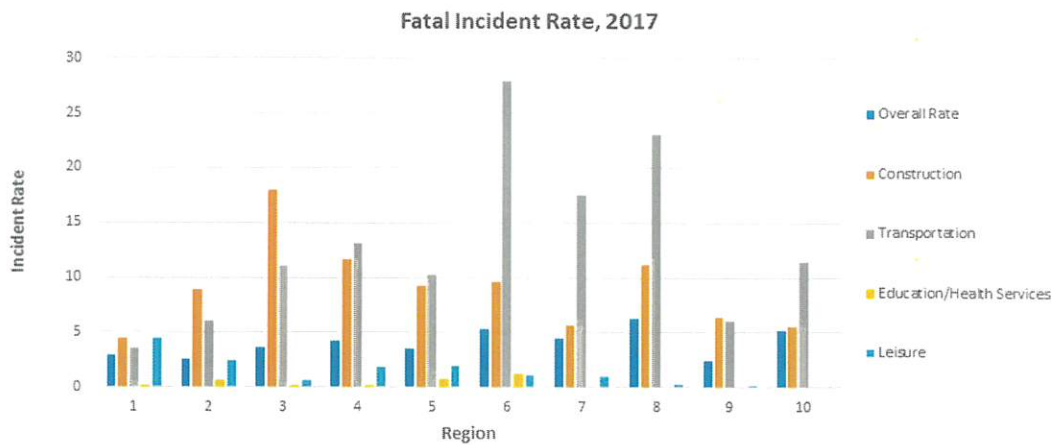
Department of Family and Preventive Medicine  
University of Utah School of Medicine  
2021

*“Protecting the worker and the environment through interdisciplinary education, research, and service.”*

- Established in 1977 to meet the need for a comprehensive occupational and environmental health and safety program in the West.
- Became a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Education and Research Center (ERC) in 1978. One of only 18 ERCs in the nation.
- In 2018, approved by NIOSH for an additional five years with increased funding now to \$1.8 million per year (Best score in US!)
- Provides academic (master and Ph.D.) and Continuing Education courses, conducts research, and provides service in Occupational Medicine, Industrial Hygiene, Ergonomics and Safety, Injury Prevention, and Hazardous Materials.
- Implemented unique Master of Science in Occupational Health Program. First graduates 2009. Developed PhD in Occupational and Environmental Health 2012.
- Implemented new undergraduate minor in Occupational Safety and Health.
  - NIOSH estimates 25,000 shortfall in safety professionals.
- Invented Occupational Safety and Health Solutions course to take teams of students to solve real-world OSH problems for businesses, improving competitiveness of businesses.
- Over 711 graduates of academic programs since 1977.
- High ratings from graduates (99.2 % are satisfied or very satisfied with our programs).
- 24,948 Continuing Education and Outreach students.
- Serving over 3,000 businesses.
- Common musculoskeletal disorders (e.g., shoulder tendinitis, carpal tunnel syndrome, tennis elbow) are markedly increased from cardiovascular disease risks.
- Research to prevent trucking deaths (4,500/yr.) and nursing injuries transferring patients.
- Research showing COVID likely spread by microdroplets and aerosols
  - Also explains ongoing spread despite masks and lockdowns, which are likely only partially effective
- Developed the only occupational health guideline for COVID
- Begun RECOVER COVID-19 CDC study of infection rates among healthcare, first responder, and frontline workers. Helps identify post-vaccination immunity, recurrences, etc.

- Faculty lead development of national guidelines for treatment of occupational injuries.
- Published national treatment guidelines (>19,000 references)
- Graduates address the fact that occupationally-related illnesses and injuries cost more than \$240 billion annually, equal to the cost of heart disease and cancer.
- Each day, 9,000 of the nation's workers sustain disabling injuries on the job; 137 people die from work-related illnesses; economic burden equivalent to cancer and heart disease.

## Region 8 Workplace Fatalities cf. Other Regions (Bureau Labor Stats.)



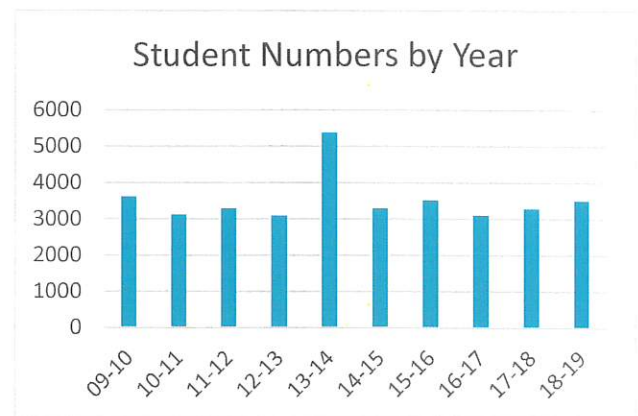
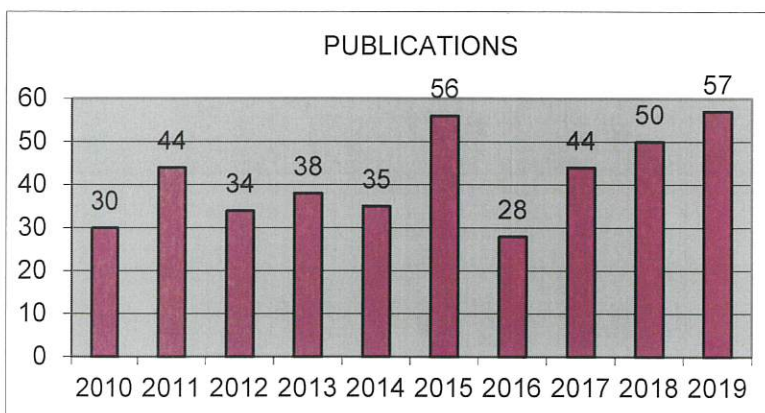
**VISION:** Be the leading international Center in meeting current and future occupational and environmental health and safety challenges.

**MISSION:** Protect workers and the environment through interdisciplinary education, research, and service.

**GOALS:**

1. Advance superior OSH academic programs.
2. Conduct meaningful OSH research.
3. Provide exceptional continuing education, service, and outreach.
4. Engineer OSH Solutions.

- RMCOEH has 392 full-time, adjunct and other supporting faculty (18 FPE)
- Funding increased 53.1% over 5-years!
- NIOSH reported 602 research publications from all funding streams in Oct. 2017-Sept. 2018, including 35 Centers and many research grants,
  - Yet RMCOEH authored 50 publications **or 8.3%!!**
- 12,971 Outreach students/contacts over 5-years!
- 36,596 contact hours!
- 82 separate outreach activities to 4,821 trainees during 2018-2019
- 16,684 CE trainees attended 1,123 CE activities over 5 years, with over 210,740 hours of instruction!



- RMCOEH trained 695 graduates to date.
  - Overall 26.4% minority students.
    - Graduation rate for underrepresented minorities 100%
  - E&S Program: 88.8% graduation rate.
  - Total Region 8 population 11.8 million<sup>(2)</sup>.
    - Only one IH or IH related professional for every 32,153 residents in Region 8.
  - IH Program: 89.3% graduation rate. ~50% become CIH.
  - OIPRT: 75% graduation rate
  - OM: 100% graduation rate. Largest US program. Board Cert. rate 96%.
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- **Graduate Surveys:**
    - Job titles are: Manager 17.2%; Director 22.4%; Staff 35.3%; Other 25.9%.
    - Average estimated injury reductions: 35.9%.
    - Median annual cost savings from graduates' OEHS work are: \$100-250K.
    - Median budget under graduates control is \$120K (range 0-\$3.26 **Billion!**).
  - How much would you recommend the RMCOEH programs?
 

<b><u>Enthusiastically recommend</u></b>	(10) 67, 56.8
	(9) 36, 30.5%
	(8) 13, 11.0%
	(7) 1, 0.8%
	(6) 1, 0.8%
	(5) 0.0%
	(4) 0.0%
	(3) 0.0%
	(2) 0.0%
<b><u>Recommend against</u></b>	(1) 0.0%

**Future Plans. Over the next 5-year period, we plan to:**

- (1) Further diversify funding,
- (2) Increase our existing academic programs
- (3) Advance our robust Research Training
- (4) Grow our research programs, and;
- (5) Implement a distance-based Master of Occupational Health program.