

California Activities in the Manufacturing Sector

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CSTE OH Workgroup Meeting – March 28, 2007

Ergonomic Improvements for Sewing Machine Operators

- Collaboration to prevent injuries in garment workers
- Team of workers from Oakland Chinatown tested workstation options
- Developed low-cost modifications that reduced symptoms
- Pilot project expanded to intervention effectiveness research in Los Angeles



Dissemination of Effective Interventions for Garment Workers

- LA study showed new chair design reduced neck/shoulder pain
- Article coming in *Spine*
- OH interns developed materials to share findings with Chinese & Spanish speaking workers



Addressing Lung Disease in Food Flavor Manufacturing

- *Bronchiolitis obliterans* diagnosed in mixers exposed to diacetyl & other chemicals
- Health Dept., Cal/OSHA & NIOSH collaborating on public health response:
 - Hazard alert & outreach
 - Industry-wide epi & IH investigation
 - Piloting methods for control technology research study
 - Other state & CSTE activities



Preventing Chronic Health Effects from Lead Exposure

- ABLES states identified need & drafted adult medical management guidelines
- Expert panel discussed & developed guidelines; could not agree on final version
- EHP lead issue with article authored by 8 panel members*

*Kosnett et al. Recommendations for medical management of adult lead exposure. Environ Health Perspect 115:463-471(2007).

