Opioid Abuse – Picture This



DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS AT WORK

The number of **drug overdose deaths at work is rising**.

The top 3 industries with the **highest numbers of drug overdose deaths at work** from 2011-2016*

Transportation & Warehousing
116 deaths

Construction
114 deaths

Healthcare & Social Assistance
96 deaths

What do we know about drug overdose deaths at work?

Most overdose deaths at work were from *opioids*

Opioids are drugs commonly used to reduce pain and can be prescribed or used without a medical reason

Workplace factors can influence the use of prescriptions and other substances

Examples: opioids prescribed for work-related back pain, and workers using substances to deal with work-related stress

What don't we know about drug overdose deaths at work?

- The circumstances for substance use
- If the drug use was associated with work injury and pain

Employers: You can take steps to prevent worker drug overdose

- ❑ Identify and remove workplace dangers
- ❑ Protect workers who do physically demanding jobs from getting injured
- ❑ Educate yourself on how you can support a worker with a substance use disorder
- ❑ Educate employees on risks for substance use and overdose prevention
- ❑ Consider implementing a program to make naloxone available in the workplace in the event of an opioid overdose
  Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose

Large Employers:
Provide training and encourage use of an employee assistance program, health plan, and other resources for treatment of substance use disorders

Small Employers:
Work with your local health department for resources in your community