

Healthcare: Healthcare Lifts 13

Intervention key words: 5 Invacare Sit to Stand Lifts and 3 Invacare Sling Lifts
Industry: Healthcare

Situation: This healthcare facility provides surgical, acute care, long term care, and swing bed services. They also provide outpatient services including physical therapy, occupational therapy, cardiac rehabilitation, and pulmonary rehabilitation.

The safety issue addressed in this HELP grant application was the risk of injury to an employee during a patient transfer. Over a 24 hour period, the staff is involved with transferring residents a minimum of 756 times. This includes getting residents out of bed, into and out of wheelchairs, and assisting with toileting events.

This facility had an inadequate number of lifts available for the number of patients they serve. The outdated lifts used at the time of grant application were awkward and still required some manual lifting. The risk factors of using these outdated lifts included painful and debilitating sprains and strains to the back, neck, shoulder and arms.

During the 24 month pre-intervention period, this employer reported 41 injuries to WSI. It was noted that 13 of these injuries were the result of lifting/transferring patients. The employer wanted to eliminate this risk and be proactive in avoiding injuries.

Solution: With the assistance of HELP grant funding, this employer purchased 5 Invacare Sit to Stand lifts and 3 Invacare Sling lifts. The employer indicated these lifts are designed to prevent caregiver back injury and ensure dignity in patient handling.

Results: Seventy employees were affected by this intervention. The amount of physical stress to the staff substantially decreased with the new equipment. The employer and the employees reported that these lifts assisted in providing a safer working environment.

During the 24 month post-intervention period, there were 24 claims reported. The employer indicated that none of these injuries resulted from lifting/transferring patients.

Period	Total # of claims for all employees	Total # of claims for affected employees
24 month pre intervention period	41	13
24 month post intervention period	24	0

Healthcare: Ambulance Cots 4

Intervention key words: 2 Stryker 6500
Power Pro Ambulance Cots
Industry: Healthcare

Situation: This ambulance service responds to approximately 1,600 calls per year.

Their older model ambulance cots were operated using manual features that exposed the operators to potential hazards. When raising and lowering a cot, both operators were exposed to various safety risks in the process. It also increased the risk of patient injury with the greater possibility of a cot being dropped.

They'd had 2 injuries during the twenty four month pre-intervention period, and this employer wanted to eliminate the risks involved in using the older style cots. They wanted to take precautions to protect their population members and provide the safest service to the citizens of this ambulance district.

Solution: With the assistance of HELP grant funding, two Stryker 6500 Power Pro XT Ambulance Cots were purchased. These new cots have a 700 pound weight capacity.

The cots allow caregivers to raise and lower patients with the touch of a button and eliminate the need to manually lift the patient. The powered cots work by a battery powered hydraulic system and have controls on one end of the cot. The attendants operate the up and down controls while holding onto the cot, which makes the operation very smooth.

Results: The staff members involved were trained on the proper use and care of the power cots. The employer indicated the potential for injury to the attendants and the patients was greatly reduced. They noted that this intervention has decreased complaints and discomfort due to lifting and has decreased the possibility of near misses and accidents.

More than 20 employees were impacted by this safety intervention. There were no injuries reported by the population during the 24 month post-intervention period.

The employer indicated that the purchase of these ambulance cots was their first step to injury prevention. They are planning to purchase stair chairs with tracks, and are researching other ergonomic types of equipment in an effort to improve worker safety.

Period	Total # of claims for all employees	Total # of claims for affected employees
24 month pre intervention period	2	0
24 month post intervention period	2	0

Healthcare: Bathing Equipment 6

Intervention key words: Cascade Aqua
Tub

Industry: Healthcare

Situation: This institution is a 99 bed facility with an average occupancy rate of 91.6%. The two bathing tubs being used to bathe the majority of the residents were designed in a manner that required staff members to lift residents up and over the side of the tub to get them in and out of it. Residents had to be transferred to a tub chair, raised up to enter the tub, and then lowered into the water. This caused behaviors on the part of the residents which added to the risk of injury.

This employer was concerned about possible injury and felt the potential risk of injury to both staff and residents was very high. During the 24 month period prior to application, there had been 3 incidents reported and 3 claims filed. During the baseline period, up to 12 Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA's) were exposed to a variety of potential injuries due to the lifting, transporting and positioning of patients. Most of the discomforts reported were of the back, shoulder and elbow.

Solution: This nursing facility purchased a Cascade side entry bathing spa with an ergonomically designed transfer seat. This has eliminated the need to lift the residents into the air in order to get them in and out of the tub.

Results: Although the overall number of claims for this facility increased during the 24 month post-intervention period, there were no claims filed by the CNA's as a result of the bathing process utilizing the Cascade tub.

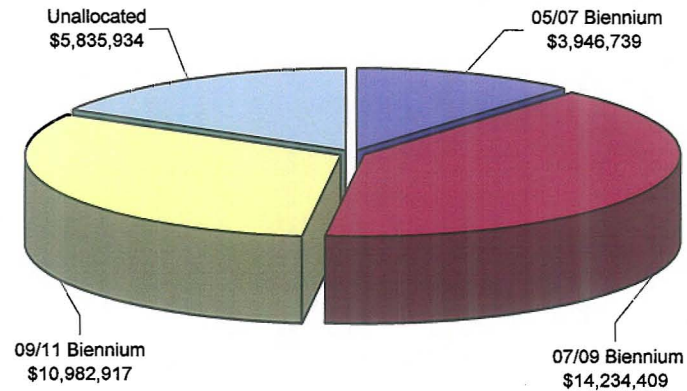
Employee surveys indicate employees feel safer and more efficient when performing their job duties. Residents indicated an increase in comfort, safety and feelings of dignity using the new bathing system.

Period	Total # of claims for all employees	Total # of claims for affected employees
24 month pre intervention period	22	3
24 month post intervention period	29	0

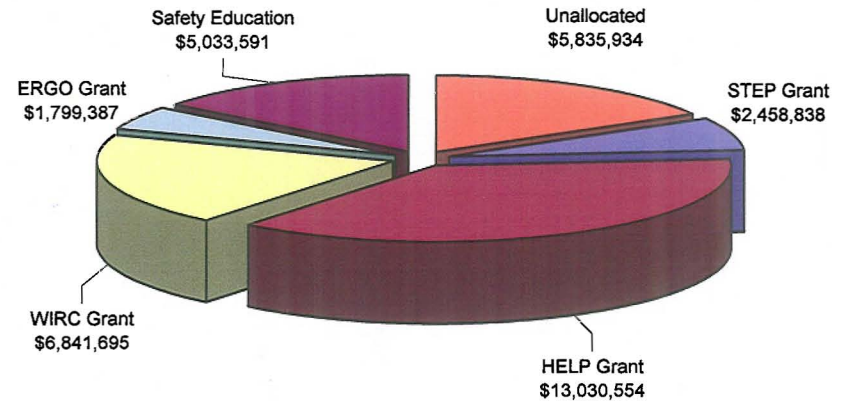
Continuing Appropriation - Safety

Initiative	05/07 Biennium	07/09 Biennium	09/11 Biennium			Total Allocated
	Allocated	Allocated	Approved	+	Budgeted	
			7-1-09 to 12-31-09		1-1-10 to 06-30-11	
Safety Training & Edu Program (STEP)	302,100	528,741	577,998		1,050,000	2,458,838
Hazard Elimination Learning Program (HELP)	2,839,957	10,190,597	-		-	13,030,554
Workplace Injury Reduction Challenge (WIRC)	-	2,113,051	4,728,644		-	6,841,695
ERGO Initiative	-	-	99,387		1,700,000	1,799,387
Safety Training & Education (LMS)	804,683	1,402,021	335,209		2,491,679	5,033,591
Total	3,946,739	14,234,409	5,741,238		5,241,679	29,164,066
					Unallocated	5,835,934
					Total	35,000,000

Continuing Safety Appropriation by Biennium



Continuing Safety Appropriation by Initiative



Active Safety Programs

Safety Training and Education Program (STEP I and II)

The purpose of the STEP program is to provide financial assistance to promote safety practices through safety training and education. The program seeks to enlist the resources of North Dakota associations and employee organizations to assist in reducing injuries and accidents. Over \$1 million has been awarded through the STEP program through July 15, 2010.

Effective Date	2007
# of Associations	11
# of Grants	22
\$ of Grants	\$1.3Million

ERGO Grant Initiative and Ergo Grant Program

Approximately 35% of all claims filed can be traced back to poor ergonomics. What typically begins as minor aches or pains, if ignored, has potential to develop into costly claims. This proactive program offers employers resources and financial assistance to help in reducing or eliminating cumulative-type injuries at the workplace.

Ergo Assessments Completed	140
Ergo Grant	
# of Grants	73
\$ of Grants	\$700K

Learning Management System (LMS)

The LMS Solution allows WSI to deliver a value proposition that states "we can deliver safety training that can reach our customers whenever they want it, wherever they live". Our goal is to provide a high-tech/low touch approach to safety training. This service is unique because it is available to WSI customers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

# of Titles	572
# of Employers	127
# of Uploaded Users	11,629
# Active Users	7,443
# Courses Completed	75,037

Inactive Safety Programs

Hazard Elimination Learning Program (HELP)

In January, 2006 Workforce Safety and Insurance (WSI) introduced the Hazard Elimination Learning Program (HELP) grant. The purpose of the HELP grant is to provide economic assistance to improve worker safety and to conduct research on the effectiveness of specific safety interventions through a matching grant program.

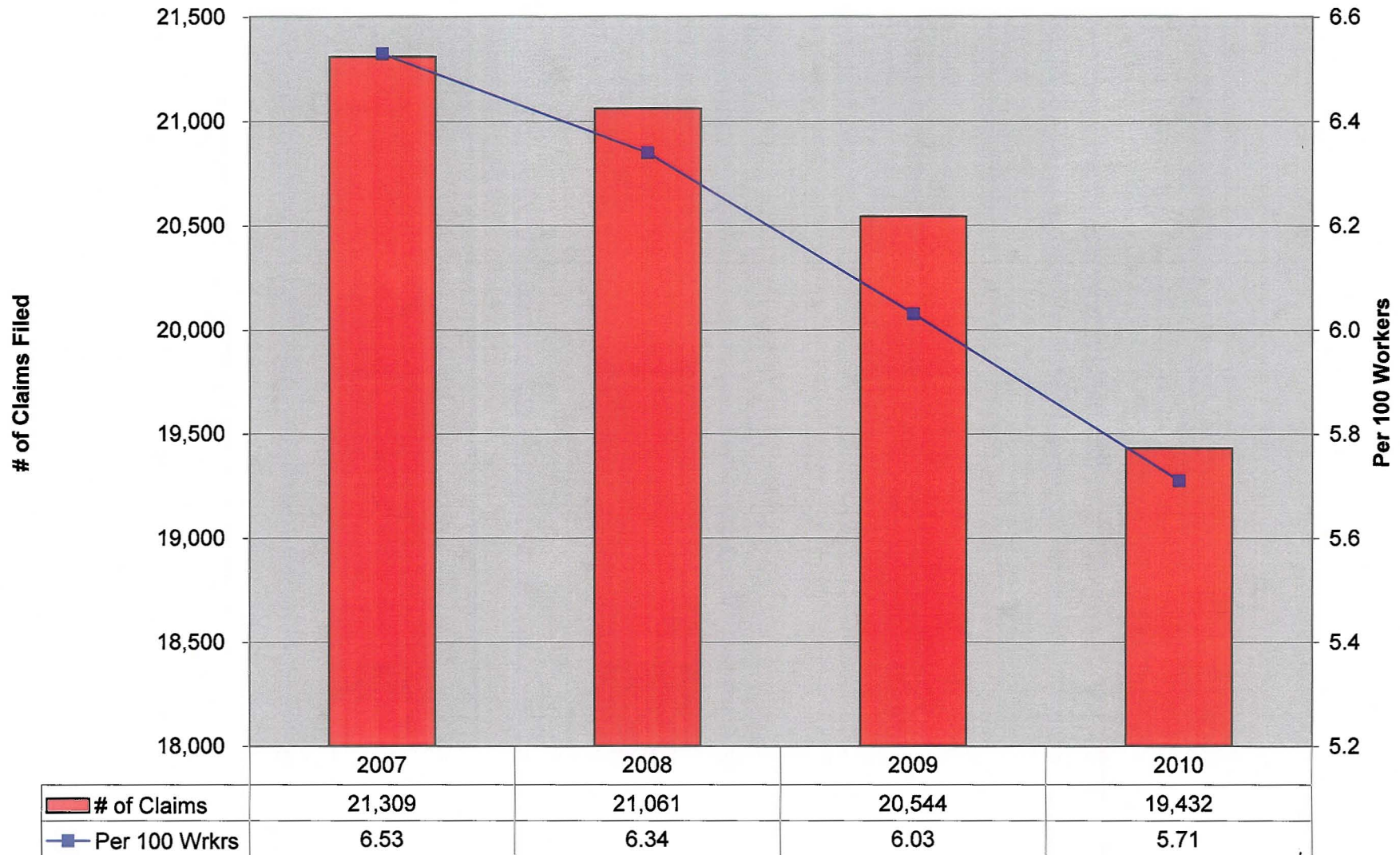
Effective Date	Jan 1, 2006 to Oct, 2008
# of Employers	357
# of Grants	490
5 - 1 Matching Grant	
\$ of Interventions	\$13Million
(Additional HELP Grant result information attached)	

Workplace Injury Reduction Challenge (WIRC I and II)

In Oct, 2008, Workforce Safety and Insurance (WSI) introduced the Workplace Injury Reduction Challenge (WIRC). The purpose of the WIRC grant is to provide economic assistance to improve worker safety through a matching grant program.

Effective Date	Oct 8, 2008 to June 30, 2009
# of Employers	430
# of Grants	495
3 -1 Matching Grant	
\$ of Interventions	\$7.0Million

Total Claims Filed



HELP Grant Survey Results

HELP Grant Survey Results

of Accts 357
Affected Population 26,125

	<u>24-Month Pre-Intervention</u>	<u>24-Month Post Intervention</u>
Please provide the number of near misses and/or incident reports associated with the population during this reporting period.	2,733	1,906
Please provide the number of claims filed during this reporting period by the employees in the population.	2,401	929
The total number of claims for all HELP Grant accts	8,268	6,945
	<u>24-Month Pre-Intervention</u>	<u>24-Month Post Intervention</u>
What is the overall impact on job productivity/efficiency with the equipment used during this reporting period? Indicate the average response below, rounding to the nearest whole number. (1=Significantly decreases job performance, 4=Significantly increase)	1.8	3.5
	<u>24-Month Pre-Intervention</u>	<u>24-Month Post Intervention</u>
Do you feel the equipment used during this reporting period provide a safe work environment/increase in positive body ergonomics? Indicate the average response below, rounding to the nearest whole number. (1=Very Unsafe, 4=Very Safe)	1.8	3.6
	<u>24-Month Pre-Intervention</u>	<u>24-Month Post Intervention</u>
What is the monetary impact of direct costs including medical costs and cost of lost wages, productivity, interruption or stoppage, property damage, etc.? Include only those costs associated with claims for the population during this reporting period.	5,958,621	1,473,877
What is the total monetary impact of indirect costs for claims filed? Indirect costs include but are not limited to; time involved to complete the task by injured worker compared to time to complete the same task by new or retrained employee, cost of wages, etc.	5,726,141	1,440,244
	<u>11,684,761</u>	<u>2,914,122</u>

In return for HELP Grant funding, successful applicants were asked to provide comparative information for the two years prior to the safety intervention (baseline survey) and the two years after (4 surveys in 6-month increments) the safety intervention was implemented. Overall claims, claims to the specific worker population affected by the intervention and various other data elements comparing the before and after periods were collected.

The information above summarizes survey results