

# 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