

**Mission** As one of the 1st and continuously funded NIOSH Education and Research Centers in the nation, the SWCOEH has a 47-year history of addressing the most pressing issues in occupational safety and health. With contributions from partners in industry, government, and community organizations, the SWCOEH’s mission is to promote and improve health, safety, and well-being of workers and their communities through inspiring education, innovative research, and engaging outreach in Public Health Region 6: **Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.**



**Education and research-based training program to improve worker well-being and the bottom line**

**Purpose** To empower workers and their communities to attain their well-being goals in work and life. Three core values of excellence, collaboration, and integrity guide our work.

Four academic programs prepare the next generation of occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals to protect and promote the safety, health, and well-being of workers.

**Industrial Hygiene (IH)** — To anticipate, recognize, evaluate, control, and protect workers from workplace hazards that may result in occupational injury and illness.

**Occupational Medicine (OM)** — To train occupational and environmental medicine physicians in all aspects of the specialty including the prevention and management of occupational and environmental injury, illness and disability, and the promotion of health and productivity for workers, their families and communities.

**Occupational Epidemiology (Occ Epi)** — To identify and evaluate work-related exposures that may be linked to risks for injury and illness.

**Total Worker Health (TWH)** — With the **first and only TWH graduation program** in the US, we are dedicated to ensuring workplaces are safe, healthy, and equitable. We accomplish this by focusing on **research-to-practice and research-to-policy** initiatives, like bringing healthcare to workers and evidence to policymakers.

**Traineeships Benefits** — Tuition & fees, travel funds, and a monthly stipend for U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

**69** masters and doctoral trainees in IH (33), OM (14), Occ Epi (11) and TWH (11) in 2018-2023

**All graduates** are employed and currently serving the needs of communities, industry, government and academia



**Industrial Hygiene**

- Los Alamos National Laboratory, NM
- Lawrence Livermore Nat’l Lab., CA
- NASA, TX
- U.S. Airforce

**Occupational Medicine**

- Memorial Hermann, TX
- Phillips 66 refinery, TX
- U.S. CDC

*“I greatly appreciate the collegial environment at the SWCOEH”*  
*“I greatly value the kind and thoughtful feedback from SWCOEH faculty”*

*“The SWCOEH has the personnel and the resources to help you gain the knowledge to carve out their desired future careers”*  
*“The SWCOEH is a great asset with mentorship, finding opportunities, and growing your professional network”*

**Occupational Epidemiology**

- UTHealth Houston, TX
- U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, TX
- National Center for Farmworker Health
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

**SWCOEH ERC Minority Alumni Success Stories**

- C. Crisp**—Black and Hispanic, received her MPH from Columbia University, graduated from the Occupational Epidemiology program, and is now serving as an Officer in the Epidemic Intelligence Service.
- R. Daywalker**—African American, 1st TWH trainee in the US currently working on her dissertation after completing her residency in Occupational Medicine has been appointed Medical Director at WorkSTEPS, a large provider of Fit-for-Duty evaluations.
- A. Rodriguez**—Latina, raised in an agricultural migrant family from South Texas, graduated from the Occupational Epidemiology program and is now an Assistant Professor focusing on occupational health and safety among agricultural workers.

# Finding Solutions Through Research

25 Years

\$1.7 Million

162 Projects

45 Institutions

## Pilot Projects Research Training Program

Promotes regional **inter-institutional ties** through direct support of **short-term research projects** initiated by investigators and research trainees in AR, LA, NM, OK, and TX.

**National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) sectors** our research addresses: Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing; Construction; Oil and Gas Extraction; Public Safety; and Services; and **health outcome cross-sectors**: Cancer & Cardiovascular Diseases; Musculoskeletal Health; Respiratory Health; and Traumatic Injury Prevention. This research portfolio includes novel topics related to nanotechnology, the application of innovative technology, and prevention through design.

<b>AR</b>	Arkansas State University, University of Arkansas, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
<b>LA</b>	Louisiana State University, Southeastern University, and Tulane University
<b>NM</b>	University of New Mexico, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
<b>OK</b>	Oklahoma State University, University of Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, University of Tulsa
<b>TX</b>	Baylor College of Medicine, Baylor University, Texas A&M components, Texas Tech, Texas Woman's, University of Houston, University of Texas components

## Funded Research Projects

- **Oklahoma State University**—In-silico prediction of tension-type chronic headaches; Work-induced fatigue and burnout among flight instructors: impact on flight training safety and quality
- **University of Oklahoma Health Science Center**—Efficacy Testing of Acid-treated HEPA Filters for Reduction of Nicotine and Particulate Matter Concentrations in a Controlled Setting
- **University of Texas HSC Houston**—Monitoring the consumption of fentanyl and its adulterant xylazine by wastewater-based epidemiology; Estimation of Respiratory Deposition Doses, and Health Risk for Submicron Aerosols in Spray Products
- **University of Texas HSC San Antonio**—Implementation of a diabetes prevention program among Hispanic Female Domestic Cleaners: A feasibility study

## Updating knowledge, skills, & current practices

### Continuing Education

Provides **easy access to a wide range of specialized training** for physicians, nurses, industrial hygienists, safety professionals and other occupational safety and health professionals to better protect workers' health and improve how they do their job.



In 2018-2023

19,799

Contact Hours

5,618

Professionals Trained

146

In-person & e-trainings

In all states

### Outreach

We **increase awareness and improve** worker health, safety, and well-being by translating science into practice. We collaborate with businesses, community groups, advocacy groups, and governmental agencies.

Recent outcomes in the agricultural sector include:

- 3,400 workers and their families received health services in 66 clinics across AR, OK, NM, and TX
- Community coordinators conducted 4,778 door-to-door vaccine education campaigns in hard-to-reach communities in TX and NM
- 1,430 personal protective equipment kits distributed and infectious disease education provided to 2,241 workers
- 4,500 agricultural workers and their families enrolled in the USDA Farm and Food Worker Relief Program distributing \$2.7 million in relief payments
- Community coordinators developed and disseminated 30,000 resource guides to rural counties highly impacted by COVID-19 in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas Panhandle, and El Paso, Texas.
- Dockside health clinics provided services to over 300 fishermen along the Texas Gulf Coast