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Public Health Nursing in Industry



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Public Health Service

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EXTENDING THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT SERVICES

Approximately 50 million men and women are employed in small industries to provide preventive health services.

Previous attempts to provide such services in small industries have shown that this need can be met is shown in the success of health departments in Florida, Missouri, and Michigan, and the Health Program of the Public Health Service's National Health Program in Cincinnati have developed programs for public health services in small industries.

This leaflet presents ideas on how health officers can extend their department services to small industries in their communities.

HOW TO GET THE FACTS

Initially, the health officer selects those services to be provided. He defines the objective and scope of the program, coordinates the activities, and coordinates the public health program. He establishes priorities, is in keeping with the medical pattern of the community, and coordinates department with those of other agencies, such as the local health department. Necessarily, he also sponsors an in-service education program, industrial health hazards, codes, and laws involved.

HOW DOES THE NURSE GET THE FACTS

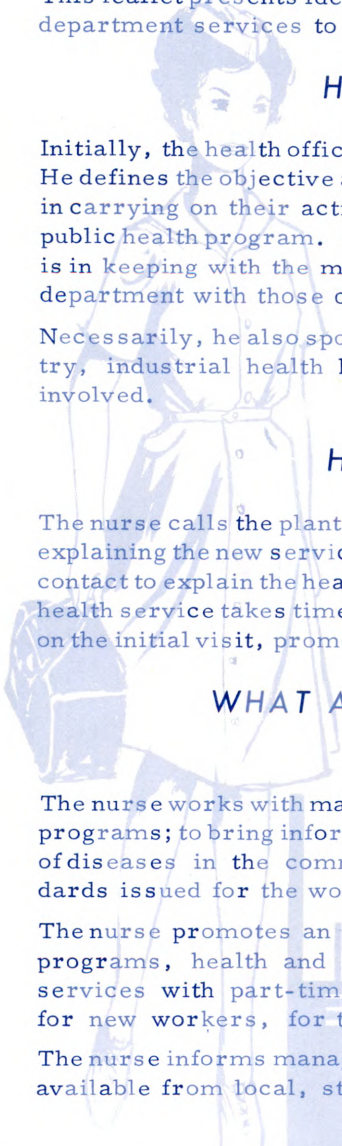
The nurse calls the plant manager for an appointment to explain the new service. Alternatively, the nurse makes contact to explain the health department's program. Health service takes time. If an employer does not respond on the initial visit, promotional materials are left at the plant.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE FACTS TO MANAGE

The nurse works with management to encourage participation in health programs; to bring information about prevention of diseases in the community; and to explain the standards issued for the worker's protection.

The nurse promotes an effective first aid program, health and safety education programs, and services with part-time professional staffs. She provides services for new workers, for those on high-risk jobs, and for those on low-risk jobs.

The nurse informs management of the specialized services available from local, state, and federal agencies and organizations.



DEPARTMENT PROGRAM TO INDUSTRY

employed in this country in plants that are too small

Small industries have been generally unsuccessful. Of three local programs. County and local health with technical assistance from the Occupational National Center for Urban and Industrial Health in health nursing in industry.

and public health nurses can extend local health community.

PROGRAM STARTED ?

that can be extended to the workers in industry. establishes the policies that will guide his staff the new occupational health service with the total and ensures that the occupational health service community. He coordinates the efforts of the health the state departments of labor and health.

ation and orientation program concerning indus- s regulating health and safety for the personnel

NURSE GET STARTED ?

ent after the health officer has sent him a letter nurse selects industries in her district and makes n to the employers. Promoting the occupational ot have time to see the nurse or is not receptive and he is asked to call for service when needed.

THINGS THE NURSE TALKS ABOUT?

participation of plant workers in community health and control procedures at times of high incidence health and safety codes, regulations, and stan-

with trained first aid workers, immunization, case-finding programs, and employee health e also promotes a physical evaluation program d for those in the middle and older age groups.

services in occupational health and public health and interprets how these can be used.

poisoning. Now the nurse is tackling the accident problem.

The public health nurse participates in an immunization program

Management in a plant employing about 80 men and women to make coat hangers talked with the nurse about a tetanus program. She planned a program with the health officer, and together they immunized the workers. As a result of this preventive program, workers who received puncture wounds required only a harmless tetanus toxoid booster. The need for giving the potentially harmful tetanus antitoxin was thus avoided.

If you want more information about providing programs for public health nursing in industry, direct your inquiries to your state health department.

The publication, Nursing Part-Time in Industry (Public Health Service Publication No. 1296), is suggested as a guide, and is available upon request from:

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What about direct health services to the industrial worker?

To provide direct health services, the nurse must set aside a certain amount of time for her work in industry. Here are some illustrations of direct services.

The public health nurse conducts case-finding programs and makes referrals when workers are found to have health problems

A public health nurse was talking with the manager about a tuberculin testing program for the workers when he interrupted with, "What we need is an eye examination program--our scrap rate is too high!"

This industry used color coding to facilitate the production of cables. The eye program the nurse subsequently developed included testing for color vision. Three workers were found to be color blind. The workers with defective vision were placed on jobs that did not require color discrimination.

The public health nurse coordinates the care given by first aid workers

In a bakery, the nurse had helped to establish a first aid program. One day she stopped by to see the first aid worker. She was greeted by the receptionist with "Go away, we don't need you!" Although the nurse was upset by this reception, she took time to ask why. The reply startled her. "We never had any accidents until you started coming here!" "Perhaps not," said the nurse, "or maybe you just never had any record of what happened!"

She went on into the plant to the first aid worker. His record showed that three people had burns on their right arms, the result of reaching for their time cards and touching an unprotected hot water pipe. The nurse and the first aid worker went to see the manager with the recommendation that the pipe be covered with asbestos. This was done.

The public health nurse counsels workers with health and family problems and helps them to use community health and welfare resources

It was August and School-Round-Up-Time. The public health nurse asked the industries in the area if she could meet with the women employees whose children would start to school in September. Her records showed that in her 10- or 15-minute visits per plant, she saw almost one-half of the mothers she needed to talk with about getting their school age children ready for first grade. As this public health nurse said, "It was good to talk with the mothers. When you go to the homes, you usually find the grandmother or the babysitter."

On return visits into those same industries, this nurse helped a worker obtain medical care for an ear infection. The manager of one of the laundries talked to her about his 70-year-old mother who had had a stroke. The nurse saw to it that this family received nursing care in the home from the Visiting Nurse Association. She also made referrals for a retarded child and for two women who were pregnant.

The public health nurse tours the work place and is accessible to workers on-the-job

One nurse elected to work in shrimp plants employing many women. These workers were subject to a dermatitis caused by water and shrimp. Accidental injuries were common, usually caused by falls on the wet and slippery floors.

The employees welcomed the nurse from the first, and management too began to see the advantages of a prevention and first aid program. The emphasis placed on personal hygiene and strict attention to the use of 'hand dip' solutions and protective creams has cut down on the reported cases of shrimp