Exploring Occupational Health Nurse's Understanding and Needs in Regard to Total Worker Health (TWH)

Today organizations have begun to place more attention on their employee's overall health and wellness beyond the time they spend within the work environment. Total worker health (TWH) not only focuses on safety and health of an employee, but also the health promotion of every employee to reduce injury and illness and advance overall well-being. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC], 2016) reported that 3 million nonfatal injuries/illnesses occurred and 4,649 workers died from work related illness in 2014. In an attempt to decrease the disparities of work related injuries and illnesses, employers are advancing the level of education and care offered to employees at work and outside of the work setting. The American Association of Occupational Health (AAOHN), an Affiliate of the NIOSH TWH program, is exploring how to advance their members knowledge regarding TWH and increase the rate of implementing TWH within the workplace. A research study was completed to 1) explore occupational nurses current level of knowledge regarding Total Worker Health (TWH), 2) explore how many nurses have begun to adopt the TWH methodology and 3) explore various factors related to how change is perceived by the nurses and the organization. This presentation will review the research findings, and discuss practical educational opportunities for occupational health staff to create change in order to successfully implement a TWH program.