Promoting U Through Safety and Health (PUSH): Evaluation of an online training for young workers

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| Promoting U Through Safety and Health (PUSH): Evaluation of an online training for young workers Aryal, Ashamsa; Parish, Megan; Rohlman, Diane S Young workers (under 25 years old) are at risk of workplace injuries due to inexperience, high-risk health behaviors and lack of knowledge about workplace hazards. Trainings based on Total Worker Health principles can improve their knowledge of and ability to help identify traditional as well as other work organization and environment hazards. In this study, we assessed changes in knowledge and behavior following an online safety and health training (PUSH) among two groups: young workers hired for the summer through a city parks and recreation program and young workers recruited online via Amazon Marketplace Mechanical Turk (MTurk). Promoting U through Safety and Health (PUSH), is an online training addressing protection from workplace hazards, the promotion of health and well-being, and communication skills. Demographic characteristics, knowledge, self-reported behaviors of workplace health and safety were collected at three time points: prior to the training, immediately after the training and 3-month after the training. The participants’ ages ranged from 15 to 24 years and the MTurk participants were significantly older (average age 22 years) than participants from parks and recreation (average age 16 years). The MTurk group had also been in the workforce longer than the park and recreation group (1.9 vs 1.2 years, respectively). However, there were no differences | Ashamsa Aryal, MPH  
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between the two groups at baseline with regard to occupational safety and health knowledge or self-reported behavior. Age was adjusted in the model as a covariate. General health outcomes, measured by SF-12, showed that the parks and recreation workers perceived their health to be better compared to the MTurk participants. Both groups exhibited a significant increase in knowledge immediately after completing the training, and knowledge in both groups decreased at the 3-month follow-up. MTurk participants demonstrated a greater increase in knowledge, with a significantly higher score as compared to baseline, indicating retention of knowledge 3 months after completing the training. More MTurk participants also reported having changed their behavior as a result of the training. The majority of participants in both groups reported the PUSH training was helpful in improving health and safety and should be provided before starting a job. This study included two group of young workers that were diverse in terms of age as well as their work experience, however, they still demonstrated the need for training on health and safety. These results suggest the usefulness of online-training to improve the safety, health and well-being of young workers.

Conflict of Interest: Dr. Rohlman have a significant financial interest in Northwest Education Training and Assessment, LLC, a company that may have a commercial interest in the results of this research and technology. This potential conflict of interest was reviewed and a management plan approved by the OHSU Conflict of Interest in Research Committee was implemented.