

September 28, 2021

Virtual Classroom

UW

Occupational Deaths of Despair

Scope of the Problem and Strategies for Prevention

Pre-conference course at the Washington State Governor's Industrial Safety and Health (GISH) Conference

Over the last two decades, the US has experienced a dramatic increase in both drug-related deaths and suicide, commonly known as deaths of despair. There are many factors that have contributed to this increase, including an epidemic of prescription drug overdoses and increasing financial instability, all of which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Deaths of despair have impacted all sectors of our society, but have been shown to be more prominent in certain worker populations. For example, the construction industry has a drug overdose rate that is 6-7 times higher and a suicide rate that is four times higher than the national average.

This course is designed for safety professionals interested in understanding the societal issues and psychosocial factors that contribute to deaths of despair and in developing strategies for prevention in the workplace, including best practices for open communication about mental health and addiction, and removing barriers to treatment.



Course Director Gary Franklin, MD, MPH is a Research Professor in the UW Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences and will kick off the course with an overview of the opioid epidemic. He will be joined by experts from across the country who will discuss the epidemiology of deaths of despair, addiction treatment and recovery, and workplace suicide prevention efforts.

During this course experts will cover:

- Recognizing the risk factors associated with deaths of despair.
- Latest research on the prevalence of deaths of despair.
- Strategies for recognizing when workers may be struggling with mental illness or drug misuse.
- Communication skills useful in preventing deaths of despair in the workplace.

REGISTRATION

Registration: \$175

Registration for this training is through the Washington State Governor's Industrial Safety and Health Conference website. **Please visit gishab.org for registration.**

6.0 Contact Hours, 0.6 CEUs

CONTACT US

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