

***Workplace Health and Safety Regulations: Impact of  
Enforcement and Consultation on Workers Compensation  
Claims Rates in Washington State with Two Years of Follow-up***

SHARP Technical Report Number 70-2-2003

Syed M Shah MD, PhD  
Barbara Silverstein PhD, MPH  
Michael Foley, MA

Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention (SHARP) Program  
Washington State Department of Labor and Industries  
PO Box 44330  
Olympia Washington 98504-4330  
E-mail: silb235@lni.wa.gov

February 2003

## Summary

**Methods:** This study replicates the 2001 SHARP study (Technical Report 70-1-2001) of the impact of enforcement and consultation on workers compensation claims rates in Washington State for an additional year (2001). The initial study design was divided into three periods: pre-study period (SFY1997 and SFY 1998), baseline period (SFY 1999), and measurement period (SFY 2000). This study extends the measurement period to SFY 2001. Multivariate modeling using a Poisson approach with Generalized Estimating Equations (GEE) was used to examine the effect of pre-intervention claims rate, size, fixed-non-fixed worksites, consultation and enforcement activity, programmed versus nonprogrammed inspections had on subsequent State Fund workers compensation claims rates.

**Results:** After two years, accounts with enforcement activities in fixed worksites had a statistically significant decrease in compensable claims rates, 22.7% greater decrease than those with no WISHA activity. Although there was a 10.7% decrease with consultation, it was not statistically significant. Results were similar for programmed and unprogrammed inspections. There were no statistically significant findings for the smaller non-fixed accounts.