

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT THE *TEENS AT WORK* PROJECT

1. Why do you want to talk to me?

We are trying to talk to as many injured teenagers as possible to get an accurate understanding of what you do on your jobs and how, where, and why work-related injuries and illnesses occur. We would also like to know your thoughts about working and what you think can be done to prevent injuries on the job. *We are particularly interested in talking with teens injured while working in the construction trades as little is known about teen work in these areas.*

2. How did you get my name?

Massachusetts doctors and hospitals are required to report work-related injuries to people under 18 to the Department of Public Health. The state's Department of Industrial Accidents (the agency that administers workers' compensation claims) also informs us of work-related injuries to teens.

3. What if my injury wasn't very serious, do you still want to talk to me?

Yes. Chances are that other people have had injuries similar to yours. We want to know if there are any patterns of injuries among young workers (e.g., Are there any different risks or injuries associated with different kinds of jobs?).

4. What will I be asked?

Over the telephone, we will ask you a series of standard questions which take approximately 20 minutes. Some questions are related to your injuries or illness (e.g., What happened?). Most other questions are about your work experience (e.g., How many hours did you work each week? Did you have health and safety training?). If there are any questions you would prefer not to answer, you don't have to answer them.

5. What will be done with the information?

We enter the data (your responses) into a computer database which enables us to describe the overall circumstances and trends for all the people we've spoken with (e.g., What percentage of injured teens were enrolled in school and working 20 hours or more per week? Are there certain jobs or industries where teens are getting injured at higher rates?). Also, it is sometimes helpful to incorporate brief descriptions of injuries into educational materials or trainings. Names of teens, employers, or locations are never included.

6. Why is this information important?

The information we collect is critical to preventing work-related injuries and illnesses. We use it to help us design prevention-oriented programs and policies. For example, we have already used results from our interviews to produce a video for teens about health and safety in the workplace. We are currently working on projects with and for teens, parents, employers, educators and health care providers in order to prevent work-related injuries.

7. Will you be contacting my employer too?

Possibly. We are interested in employers' experiences working with young workers. In some instances, we may have already spoken to your employer. When we talk with employers, we tell them about our project and how we became aware that an injury occurred (per #2 above); we do not mention individual names.

8. Will anyone else be told about my injury?

The information you give us will be kept confidential. In some instances however, we may want to ask another agency to evaluate a workplace if we think that other teens are at risk of injury or illness. These other agencies are responsible for assuring that employers provide safe, healthful, and lawful working conditions for teen employees. We will ask you how you would feel about a workplace evaluation before requesting one.