

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Safety Groups Program 2000 – 2004

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Safety Groups Program (SGP) is a major Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) prevention initiative offered in partnership with Safe Workplace Associations, trade associations, and private consultants to most Ontario employers. Firms participating in the program work to improve their health and safety through a two prong approach: first with a structured approach to health and safety management; and second through the support of a network group. Five years is the expected term in the program. Each year during this time a firm works on a new set of five health and safety elements. The elements are selected at the beginning of each year from a list provided by the SGP and based on an initial health and safety assessment of the firm.

Since its inception in 2000, the WSIB has evaluated the program's effects on participating firms, especially injury claim rates. The poster will present the results of the evaluation of the effectiveness of the SGP on reducing injury claim rates. The determination of program effectiveness is made through a statistical comparison of participant to similar non-participant firms before and after entry into the program.

In addition, the poster will report on the demands that participation in the program placed on the firms, the processes within safety groups that enabled participants to implement health and safety improvements, and on other program benefits reported by participants over and above the WSIB premium rebates.