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Abstract title:

Spreading the word: use of information systems in support of the activities of a non-profit public health organization

Abstract text including references: limited to a maximum of 250 words.

Rationale:

The Center for Social Epidemiology is a private non-profit foundation whose purpose is to promote public awareness of the role of work organization and occupational stress in the development of psychological distress and cardiovascular risk factors. It works to accomplish this goal through a program of education, training and research activities. The Center employs an Information Systems Manager (ISM) who plays an important role in the organization, conduct and communication of these activities.

Education & Training

The ISM moderates the Center's listservs and manages it's website using web design software. Conferences, workshops, and academic courses at UCLA on Work and Health and at UCI on Occupational Cardiology as well as the California Work and Health Study Group are supported by the Center's information systems network. In addition the Center is involved in the preparation and publication of scientific articles and books (e.g. *Unhealthy Work: Causes, Consequences, Cures*. 2009 Baywood).

Research

The Center is investigating work factors and their roles in obesity and hypertension in collaboration with UCI's Center for Occupational and Environmental Health. The research is supported financially by the CSE and by the Center's ISM utilizing project management software (Mindjet), electronic survey applications (Survey Monkey), and database building software (Endnote). Occupational health projects currently engaged in by CSE include collaborations with unions such as HERE, UAW, CWA and the

IAFF/OCFA (Orange County Fire Authority).

Conclusions

Details of these activities including difficulties in implementation, the costs and their generalizability and transferability to other locations will be discussed.