



REDUCING WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS

The NIOSH study/method for
accident reduction and **cost impact**



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Slip, trip and fall injuries cause 25% of all workplace accidents.

Introduction | Executive Summary

Slip, trip and fall injuries are the cause of more than 240,000 missed workdays per year and 25% of all workplace accidents. For companies across the nation, workplace slips and falls are an ongoing issue with serious financial and operational implications. Thus, a proven safety solution to reduce slip and fall related injuries and costs is needed to combat workplace accidents and injuries and protect the company's profitability and productivity.

In this whitepaper, you'll gain insights from an accredited resource study that proves how a safety footwear solution can mitigate accidents and protect employees from safety hazards. You'll also learn about the benefits of reducing slip and fall accidents and their associated costs.

Section 1 The NIOSH Study / Method for Reducing Workplace Accidents

The reduction of workplace accidents is likely a key area of concern if your company desires to cut its expenses. However, many organizations are not aware of safety resources, such as a slip-resistant footwear program, that can be leveraged to slash as much as 80% of slip and fall related costs. Research studies have shown that these programs have been proven to help reduce these costly accidents

In December 2013, a study by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) proved slip-resistant footwear to be an effective means for preventing workers' compensation injury claims caused by slipping on wet or greasy floors. The study examines slip-resistant footwear as a potential protective measure against slip-related accidents, caused by slips (both with or without falls), in the workplace.

The study's participants included food service employees from 226 school districts' kindergarten through 12th grade food service operations. Alongside Aramark's food service division as the study's subject, Shoes For Crews® was selected as the safety footwear brand to participate in the study. Shoes For Crews® was chosen as an unbiased industry partner and footwear provider to "minimize variation from multiple sole patterns [and] based on highly ranked performance in wet, greasy conditions" .

Unbeknownst to the researchers, Shoes For Crews®, the industry-leading slip-resistant footwear brand, and Aramark had a pre-existing partnership in which workers' footwear costs were deducted from their paychecks. The relationship between the study's participating companies, though unexpected, is a key component of the study and its significance.



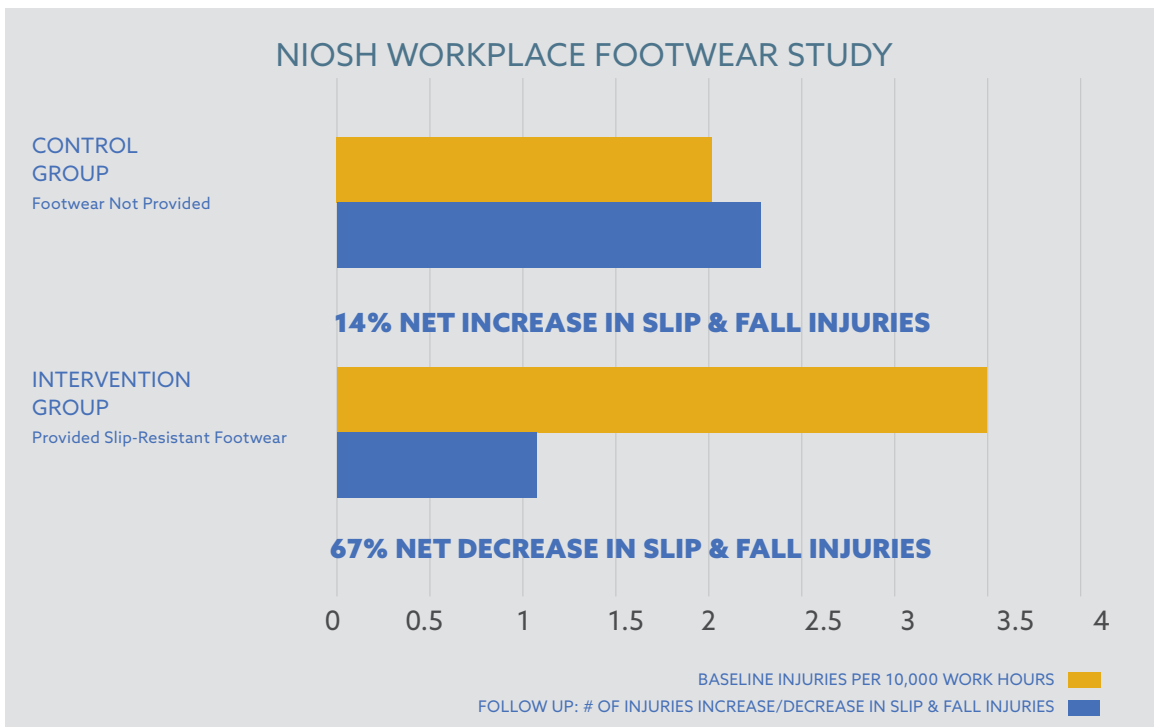
Section 2

NIOSH Study Results and Participation

Without employee participation, even the leading safety footwear cannot yield significant results. One of the key factors in achieving optimal results from slip-resistant footwear is organizational participation and support. In the study, 94% of the workers participated in the slip-resistant footwear program. Unsurprisingly, Aramark's high percentage of employee adoption of the protective footwear during the testing period is critical to the study's success.

The Aramark food service division team was able to achieve high program adoption because of the "no-cost-to-workers" program feature in which each food service employees' shoes were provided by the employer. The assumption that workers who enrolled in the no cost program would comply and wear their shoes is critical to the foundation of the study.

This assumption was "based on data from a previous research study done in food services... where workers' visually verified use of slip-resistant footwear was highest (with 91% of workers wearing them) in restaurants where footwear was provided by and paid for by the employer." The study's findings support the notion that employees are more likely to wear safety footwear that is free of charge.



The final results prove that employees who were provided Shoes For Crews® slip-resistant footwear experienced a 67% reduction in slip injury occurrence.

On the other hand, the control group not wearing slip-resistant footwear experienced a 14% increase in slip injury probability. When combined, these results indicate that a slip and fall reduction of as much as 81% can be achieved when a safety shoe policy is implemented and adopted.

Section 3

Benefits of Reducing Workplace Accidents

7 million workplace injuries occur each year

In the United States, 7 million workplace injuries occur each year. These injuries result in 99 million days of lost productivity and over \$70 billion spent on workers' compensation. Thus, many companies aim to reduce workplace accidents to protect their bottom line and drive productivity.

According to the 2018 Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index, serious, non-fatal workplace injuries totaled nearly \$60 billion in direct U.S. worker's compensation costs. Still, workers' compensation costs are often only a fraction of the direct expenses once legal fees and other costs are considered.

Indirect costs, the unbudgeted, uninsured expenses that accompany workplace accidents, must also be factored into the equation. These costs include productivity loss, accident investigation, reduced employee morale and damaged equipment. Indirect costs are typically 2 to 10 times as expensive as direct costs. Because this type of expense is usually ineligible for insurance coverage, an even greater financial burden is placed on the company.

But financial savings is only one major benefit of reducing workplace accidents. Boosted employee morale, improved customer satisfaction and fewer missed workdays are also advantages of mitigating workplace hazards and creating a safer work environment.

Section 4

The Solution Conclusion

Based on the NIOSH and CDC study, a slip-resistant footwear program is a proven solution to reduce workplace accidents. A protective footwear plan, like those offered by Shoes For Crews®, yields both significant savings and a positive return on investment.

The most important element to the success of a safety footwear program is the footwear itself, and not all slip-resistant shoes are created equal. Genuine slip-resistant shoes feature a high coefficient of friction for maximum traction in slippery environments, tested and confirmed by independent laboratory results. The key is to choose a trusted footwear provider who is an expert in the field of slip-resistant outsole technology.

Regarding the Shoes For Crews® safety shoe program, Joy Myers, Director of Risk Management for Polk County Public Schools, said:

“During the first year with Shoes For Crews®, we saw a dramatic decrease in the slip and falls within this group. The gripping ability of Shoes for Crews products in water and other slippery substances cannot be matched by the other vendors we have tried. We have found SFC to be clearly superior in these environments...Because of the success with our partnership in Shoes for Crews, we have seen savings exceeding the cost of the program. We find this program valuable because making an investment in our employees lets them know that we care about them being able to perform their jobs safely.”

Managed Safety Program

As the industry leader, Shoes For Crews® safety programs are proven to reduce slip and fall accidents. **Visit our Corporate Programs page to learn how a managed safety footwear program can reduce workplace accidents and ultimately lower your company's bottom-line costs.**



Sources used for this article:

* Effectiveness of a no-cost-to-workers, slip-resistant footwear program for reducing slipping-related injuries in food service workers: A cluster randomized trial Bell J.L., Collins J.W., Chiou S. (2019) Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment and Health, 45 (2) , pp. 194-202.

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<https://www.oshatrain.org/courses/pages/700costs.html>

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