

# Evolution of ODAP to Ontario's Occupational Illness Prevention Plan

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# Occupational Illness Prevention Plan Members



Occupational Health and Safety System and partners collaboration toward occupational illness prevention

# ODAP to Occupational Illness Prevention

**2017**

Implementation Team  
OD Awareness System  
Priority  
Working groups start  
at different stages  
Noise takes lead &  
sets model for INAD  
campaign, tools & KTE

**2018**

A&I Resources  
Diesel & Noise  
Webinars  
CARWH  
Conference  
Poster  
OCRC OD  
Surveillance  
System (ODSS)

**2019**

Preventoccdisease.ca  
Respiratory Hazards WG  
Heathy Workers in  
Healthy Workplaces  
OCRC ODSP  
Auditor General  
Report  
Recommendation

**2020**

COVID-19 Workplace  
Safety Plan  
Paul Demers Report  
Physician/Clinician's  
Toolkit  
OEL Adjust Tool  
Action beyond  
Awareness

**2021**

Logic Model  
working group  
New OH & S  
System  
Strategy:  
*Prevention  
Works: systems  
focus on  
occupational  
illness (July)*  
Occupational  
Illness  
Prevention  
Steering  
Committee

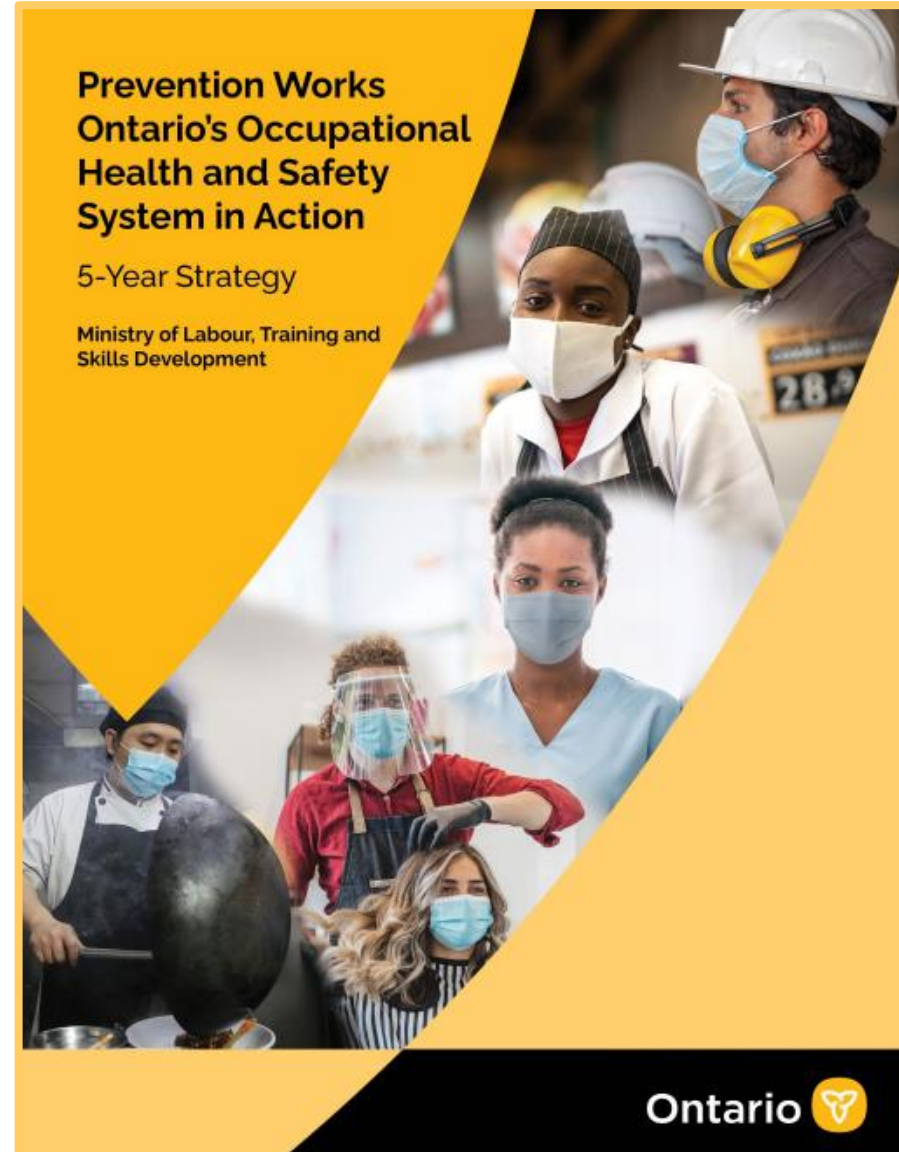
*Collective  
Impact*

*Evidence-  
driven*

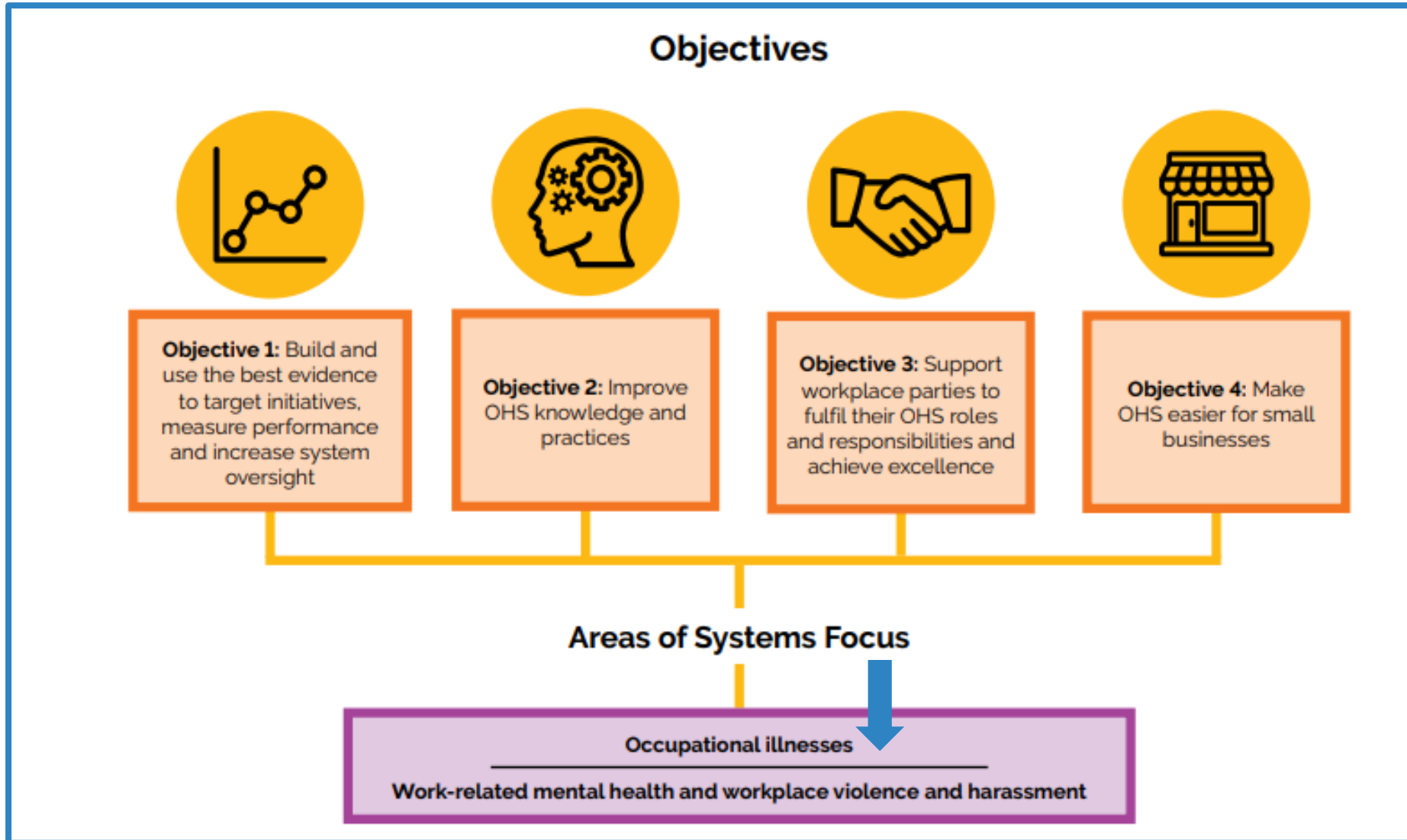
*Performance  
Measures*

## Prevention Works: context

- The 2021-2026 Occupational Health and Safety strategy – called [Prevention Works](#) – was released in July 2021.
- Prevention Works was developed based on:
  - ❑ Auditor General recommendations.
  - ❑ Province-wide consultations.
  - ❑ Extensive research and analysis of OHS data and other sources of evidence.
- Prevention Works was socialized extensively with stakeholders – with positive feedback – including:
  - The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).
  - The Business Council on Occupational Health and Safety (BCOHS).
  - The Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL).
- It is a legislative requirement (OHS Act S.22.3) of the Chief Prevention Officer to develop a Provincial OHS strategy and provide it to the minister.



# Prevention Works: overview



# Why Occupational Illness?



What problem are we trying to solve?

*Ontario workers are exposed to occupational hazards at levels that cause illness, resulting in a high burden to the system, individuals and their families.*

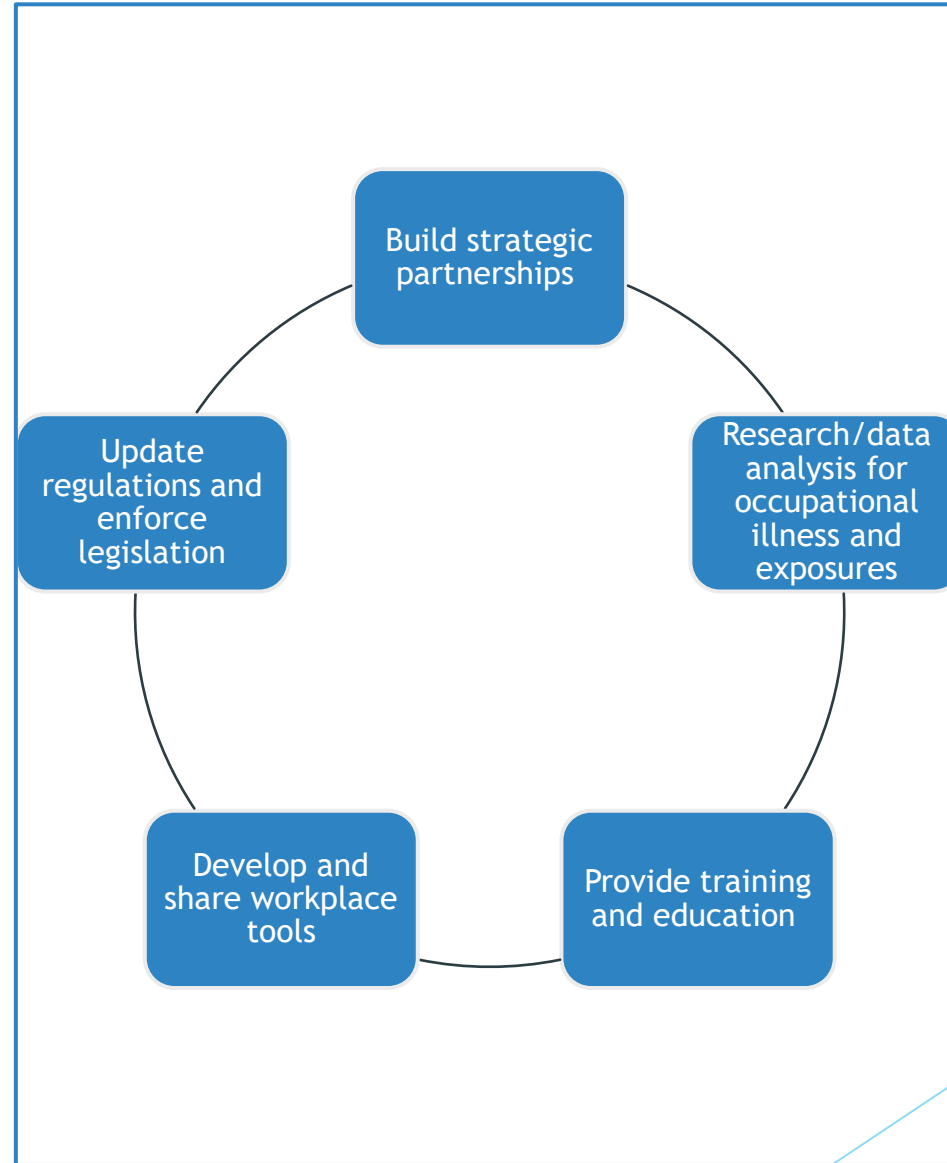
- ▶ Work-related illnesses result in over 75% of workplace fatalities; have a negative impact on the quality of life of Ontario workers and their families; and cost billions of dollars per year in health care expenditures and lost productivity.
  - Between 2010 and 2019, the WSIB allowed about 136,000 occupational disease claims, which made up over \$910 million in benefit costs.
- ▶ However, these statistics greatly under-estimate the prevalence and burden of occupational illness due to **under-recognition** and **under-reporting**

Consequences:

- Prevention opportunities, their impact and emerging issues are not identified
  - Workers do not receive compensation benefits
  - Health care costs are inappropriately borne by the public health insurance system

# How can we solve this problem?

- **Build Capacity of the OHS System and external partners to:**
  - Improve the recognition and control of hazardous exposures in Ontario workplaces
  - Improve OI recognition among workplace parties and primary care providers
  - Improve reporting of OI by workplace parties and primary care providers



## Long-Term Priority Setting

### Criteria for priority setting

- **Need:** where is the greatest need to focus prevention efforts?
  - **Prevalence:** defined as the # of illnesses and fatalities caused by an occupational exposure.
  - **Severity:** defined as an exposure to a hazard leading to a fatality or severe illness.
  - **Economic burden:** consider the economic burden posed by the related illness(es), as available
  - **Relevance:** consider our distinct role in the prevention and control of the exposure(s). Are we in a position to lead the related prevention efforts (e.g. due to our mandate), or would we play a supporting role?
- **Impact:** defined as the exposures with the greatest potential for impact from a prevention perspective.
  - Considering the plan as a “5-year plan” but also focusing on initiatives that can be implemented and have an impact right away (“low-hanging fruit”)
- **Innovation and Equity**



# Background

## Burden of Occupational Disease

### We have learned

- ▶ Approximately 3,000 cancers diagnosed each year in Ontario are due to occupational exposure to 16 carcinogens commonly found in the workplace
  - ▶ Solar radiation, asbestos, diesel engine exhaust & crystalline silica

### We have more to learn

- ▶ Occupational disease fatalities have been approximately twice that of traumatic fatalities in each of the past ten years, *however*
- ▶ the number of work-related illness cases and related fatalities is **much** higher than compensation statistics indicate

## Priorities of ODAP

- ▶ **Hazards:**
  - ▶ Noise
  - ▶ Allergens & Irritants (both skin & lung)
  - ▶ Diesel Exhaust Emissions
  - ▶ Respiratory Hazards
    - ▶ Asbestos, crystalline silica
  - ▶ Emerging Issues
    - ▶ Nanotechnology
- ▶ **Data and Evidence:**
  - ▶ Intelligence and Decision Support
- ▶ **Special Focus:**
  - ▶ Electronic Medical Records

# Need and Impact Rankings

## Need

1. Noise
2. Allergens and irritants
3. Biological hazards
4. Crystalline Silica
5. Shift work
6. Heat stress
7. Diesel engine exhaust
8. Solar UV radiation
9. Asbestos
10. Vibration
11. Radiation (ionized and non-ionized)
12. Organic solvents
13. Nano-technology

## Impact

1. Biological hazards
2. Noise
3. Crystalline Silica and Asbestos (tie)
4. Heat stress
5. Allergens and irritants
6. Solar UV radiation
7. Diesel engine exhaust
8. Vibration
9. Shift work
10. Organic solvents
11. Radiation (ionized and non-ionized)
12. Nano-technology

\*Welding fumes was only ranked by 2 respondents

## Overall rankings

1. **Noise**
2. **Biological hazards**
3. **Crystalline silica and Allergens & irritants (tie)**
4. **Heat stress**
5. **Asbestos**
6. **Diesel engine exhaust**
7. **Solar UV radiation**
8. **Shift work**
9. **Vibration**
10. **Organic solvents**
11. **Radiation (ionized and non-ionized)**
12. **Nano-technology**

# Occupational Illness Prevention

## Prevention Works Strategy

Improve the recognition and control of hazardous exposures in Ontario workplaces and the recognition and reporting of occupational illnesses

Build Strategic Partnerships

Research and Data

Education and Training

Workplace Tools

Regulations and Legislation

Activity  
Electronic Medical Records

Activity  
Silicosis Surveillance

Project: JHSC training review

Activity: ECHO OEM pilot

Potential Project:  
Inventory and evaluate OI workplace tools

Activity:  
Ongoing Regulatory impact assessments - OELs

Potential Project  
Silica Control Tool Pilot

OHCOW,  
CCOHS, IHSA/  
BCCSA

Long-term Outcome: Reduced incidence and burden of occupational illness

# Questions

1. Do these exposure priorities resonate with you?
  
2. What is the something your workplace might be able to action to reduce exposures that may cause occupational illness and /or help with underreporting /under recognition?
  - a. Discuss with JHSC
  - b. Review Occupational Illness reports
  - c. Sign up to participate in Silica Tool pilot
  - d. Review stats [www.occdiseasestats.ca](http://www.occdiseasestats.ca)

1. **Noise**
  2. **Biological hazards**
  3. **Crystalline silica**
  3. **Allergens & irritants (tied with silica)**
  4. **Heat stress**
  5. **Asbestos**
  6. **Diesel engine exhaust**
  7. **Solar UV radiation**
  8. **Shift work**
  9. **Vibration**
  10. **Organic solvents**
  11. **Radiation (ionized and non-ionized)**
  12. **Nano-technology**
- Welding fumes (ranked only by 2 people)

# Occ-omplishments (highlights 2020/21)

- ▶ COVID
  - ▶ [Workplace Safety Plan Builder](#)
  - ▶ Workplace Safety Prevention Services (WSPS) developed a [Prevent COVID-19 at Work](#) free mobile App
  - ▶ (IHSA) produced over 40 guidance resources & developed 13 on-demand [COVID-19 awareness webinars](#)
  - ▶ OHCOW Occ-COVID Webinars, [COVID Regional Risk Tool, Ventilation Checklist](#)
- ▶ [OCRC Occupational Disease Stats Database](#)
- ▶ (CREOD) created a [Skin Health at Work toolbox](#)
- ▶ [OHCOW OEL Adjust Tool](#) which allows workplace parties to calculate the adjusted workplace exposure limit for an unusual or extended work shift in support of the MLTSD Occupational Health Regulatory Modernization Amendments.
- ▶ The Occupational Disease Labour-Management Committee, supported by the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA), held a seminar, attended by 70 stakeholders, on Regulation 33: Control of Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents, featuring Paul Demers, who shared the results from their study on strategies to reduce [future burden of cancer in the Ontario construction industry](#).
- ▶ [Occ-tober Event](#) & OHCOW Winter Webinar Series
- ▶ OHCOW, CCOHS, IHSA/BCCSA- [Silica Control Tool Pilot Program](#)

For More Information, Tools and Resources on  
Occupational Disease Prevention

▶ [preventoccdisease.ca](http://preventoccdisease.ca)