



A health and safety bulletin from

# UI HealthWorks and WORKSAFE IOWA

March 2012

## **Occupational Illness and Injury: More Costly Than Cancer!**

A new NIOSH-funded study conducted by researchers at the University of California (Davis) shows that job-related injuries and illnesses cost the United States much more each year than imagined: \$250 billion. The amount is \$33 billion higher than the last time it was calculated in 1992. The current cost of occupational health issues is \$31 billion higher than the annual costs of cancer and \$76 billion higher than diabetes. The study emphasizes the need for a greater effort to reduce occupational illness and injury. Less than 25% of the costs related to workplace injury and illness are covered by workers' compensation, leaving the rest to employer-provided insurance and contributing to ever-rising healthcare costs.

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_121029.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_121029.html)

<http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/publish/news/surgicalservices/6075>

## **Long Hours May Take Emotional Toll**

Working overtime may make workers more likely to develop depression, according to a new study of civil servants conducted in Europe. The study showed that working 11 or more hours a day more than doubled the risk of a major depressive episode when compared with working a standard 7-8-hour day.

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0030719>

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_121240.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_121240.html)

## **Texas Worker Awarded Nearly \$8000 in Back Wages for FMLA Violation**

A Texas hospital employee was recently awarded nearly \$8,000 in back wages after an investigation found that he had been placed on unpaid leave in violation of the Family Medical Leave Act. The Bexar County Hospital District required the employee, who requested intermittent leave due to a chronic health condition, to take continuous unpaid leave over a 3-month period, resulting in lost wages.

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/whd/WHD20111782.htm>

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UI HealthWorks is a member of the WORKSAFE IOWA Occupational Medicine Associate Network, the only university-affiliated network of occupational health providers. WORKSAFE IOWA is an outreach program of the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health in the College of Public Health at the University of Iowa ([www.public-health.uiowa.edu/worksafe](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/worksafe)).

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