Background and Brief Description

The health of a workplace and its workers are inextricably linked. Ideally, workplaces not only protect the safety and wellbeing of employees but also provide them opportunities for better long-term health and enhanced quality of life. Effective workplace programs, policies, and environments that are health-focused and worker-centered have the potential to significantly benefit employers, employees, their families, and communities. As the nation’s premier public health agency, the CDC helps protect the health and safety of all people in our schools, communities, homes and workplaces through prevention. The workplace can specifically protect and promote health through programs, policies, and practices that have the potential of reaching millions of workers, retirees, and their families.

Increasing health care costs and decreasing health-related productivity are leading American businesses to examine strategies to improve employee health and contain health costs that are largely driven by chronic diseases and related lifestyle choices. Employers are recognizing the role they can play in creating a healthy work environment and providing their employees with opportunities to make healthy lifestyle choices. They increasingly look to CDC and other public health experts for guidance and solutions to combat the effects of chronic diseases on their employees and businesses. Workplace health programs not only benefit individual employees but also make good business sense.

Although a number of national and local level studies and surveys have been conducted over the past 25 years examining aspects of workplace health promotion and protection programs, there has not been, to date, a systematic and ongoing effort to document the evidenced-based and best practice strategies and interventions at the individual employee and organizational level that comprise a comprehensive workplace health program from a nationally representative sample of employers. Workplace Health in America is authorized by the Public Health Service Act and funded through the Prevention and Public Health Fund of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). CDC has developed the Workplace Health in America survey program to describe the current state of U.S. workplace health promotion and protection programs and practices in employers of all sizes, industries and regions. National worksite health promotion experts, employers, and...
content experts from the CDC advised on the survey content. Items from existing, validated surveys were used whenever possible. The survey contains yes/no, multiple choice and a small number of open-ended items.

The Workplace Health in America survey is designed to collect information about: Basic organizational characteristics; employer-sponsored health insurance; health risk assessments; staffing and other resources devoted to employee health and safety programming; incentives; work-life policies and benefits; availability of health screenings and disease management programs; occupational safety and health programs. The survey items also cover the presence of evidence-based and other health promotion programs, policies and supports related to physical activity; nutrition; weight; tobacco; excess alcohol use and drug abuse; lactation and prenatal support; musculoskeletal disorders, arthritis and back pain; stress; and sleep.

CDC seeks to request Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. The information that is collected is intended to build an infrastructure supporting ongoing surveillance to evaluate national workplace health priorities (e.g., Healthy People), monitor trends, and address emerging issues; provide free and accessible benchmarking data for employers and other stakeholders in workplace health promotion and protection; provide a better understanding of employer practices to inform the development of tools and resources to support the design implementation, and evaluation of employer-based workplace health programs; and advance workplace health promotion and protection research.

To achieve these aims, CDC has developed an infrastructure for this initial effort that can be expanded for future iterations of data collection. CDC has designed a process to select a nationally representative sample of worksites representing employers in all size categories, industry sectors, and CDC regions. The data collection platform was developed to collect information primarily by online survey or telephone assisted interview, and can be easily modified to accommodate additional survey modules. CDC has also created a dissemination plan to ensure the data and results can be used by employers and other stakeholders beyond the research community. Planned dissemination products include webinars to employer groups, an online dashboard for employers to benchmark their programs against other employers with comparable characteristics, and brief reports tailored to employers of different sizes.

OMB approval is requested for two years. CDC estimates that a total 8,085 employers will complete the Workplace Health in America survey. Participation is voluntary and there are no costs to respondents other than their time.

### ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

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Leroy A. Richardson,  
Chief, Information Collection Review Office, Office of Scientific Integrity, Office of the Associate Director for Science, Office of the Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Request for Nominations of Candidates To Serve on the Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is soliciting nominations for possible membership on the BSC, NIOSH.

The BSC, NIOSH consists of 15 experts in fields related to occupational safety and health. The members are selected by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The board advises the NIOSH Director on occupational safety and health research and prevention programs. The board also provides advice on standards of scientific excellence, current needs in the field of occupational safety and health, and the applicability and dissemination of research findings. This advice may take the form of reports or verbal communications to the NIOSH Director during BSC meetings.

Nominations are being sought for individuals who have expertise and qualifications necessary to contribute to the accomplishment of the board’s mission. More information is available on the NIOSH BSC Web site: http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/BSC/default.html.

Nominees will be selected based on expertise in occupational safety and health fields, such as occupational medicine, occupational nursing, industrial hygiene, occupational safety and health engineering, toxicology, chemistry, safety and health education, ergonomics, epidemiology, biostatistics, and psychology. Members may be invited to serve for terms of two to four years. Selected nominees would begin service on the BSC, NIOSH in January 2017.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services policy stipulates that committee membership shall be balanced in terms of professional training and background, points of view represented, and the committee’s function. In addition to a broad range of expertise, consideration is given to a broad representation of geographic areas within the U.S., with diverse representation of both genders, all ethnic and racial groups, and persons with disabilities. Nominees must be U.S. citizens, and cannot be full-time employees of the U.S. Government or federally registered lobbyists.

Candidates should submit the following items:

- Current curriculum vitae, including complete contact information (name, affiliation, mailing address, telephone number, email address)
- A letter of recommendation stating the qualifications of the candidate.