



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Schuyler County, NY

Encouraging Cancer Screening Paid Time Off Policies at Schuyler County Worksites



Eleanor James, B.A. & Ruinan Sun, MPH
Schuyler County Public Health

Introduction

- Cancer is the #1 cause of death in Schuyler County
 - Average annual death: 182.9 per 100K ¹
 - 36% higher than the NYS level (134.5 per 100K) ²
- Each cancer diagnosis costs a business \$1,601 in lost productivity annually. ³
- Early detection of cancer plays a crucial role in improving treatment outcomes. ³
- When cancer screening paid time off (PTO) is not provided, employees are less likely to get screened. ³
- In Schuyler County, employers' attitudes and policies towards cancer screening PTO were unknown.

Methods

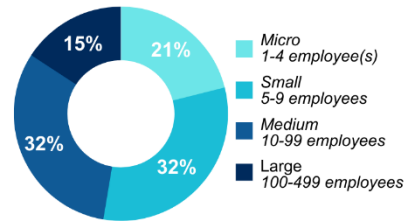
To understand the current attitudes and policies held by employers in Schuyler County, Schuyler County Public Health:

- Developed an employee cancer screening paid leave policy package, in line with current cancer screening guidance. This package included:
 - Employer letter with commitment survey
 - Worksite Wellness Toolkit
 - Southern Tier Cancer Services Program flyer
- Mailed packages with pre-paid return envelopes to 75 local worksites (20% coverage); received a 26% response rate. ⁴
- Sent email reminders or made phone calls to worksites that didn't respond to the mailing.
- Engaged with employers who don't currently have cancer screening PTO policies but have shown interest in adopting one to offer support or guidance in their implementation process.

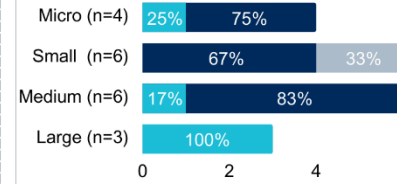
Results



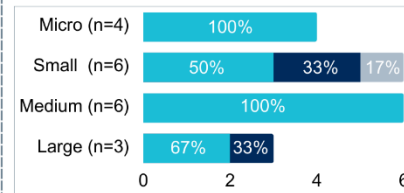
Worksite Size (N=19)



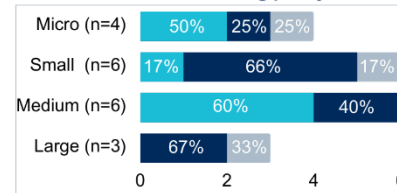
Does your worksite have a paid leave cancer screening policy for employees?



Does your worksite offer any PTO outside of general paid sick or vacation leave?



Are you interested in a paid leave cancer screening policy?



Four local worksites initiated the policy change from this project; three already fully adopted their new policy.

52 local employees have gained benefits from this policy change.

Conclusion

- According to survey responses and follow-up communication with local businesses:
- Schuyler County worksites, especially smaller businesses, lack awareness and implementation of cancer screening PTO policies.
 - Micro- and medium-sized businesses show notable interest in adopting such policies. However, economic challenges hinder micro- and small-sized businesses from adopting these policies despite their interest.
 - There is a need for:
 - Expanded outreach to more local worksites.
 - Enhanced awareness among local employers.
 - Identified resources to help smaller businesses in overcoming barriers to policy implementation.



Employer Letter with Commitment Survey



Worksite Wellness Toolkit

References

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