

Worker Health and Safety in Cannabis Growing and Processing

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Problem: There is minimal research on the occupational health and safety risks (HSR) specific to cannabis cultivation. This project aims to determine the key HSR of the industry as a whole, as well as for specialized worker job categories.

Project Overview: The size and composition of the cannabis workforce, including characteristics of both the labor and farm types, will be identified through data collected from a review of the scientific literature, field visits, and discussions with owners of the facilities that were visited.

Progress to date: The researchers visited two outdoor growing facilities, two indoor facilities, one distribution facility for cannabis extraction equipment, and one extraction facility. Production processes were observed and possible worker HSR were catalogued. Researchers also visited a processing plant that was under construction and met with the owner of a cannabis labor contracting service.

Anticipated Project Outputs: A report of cannabis growing and processing HSR is in progress using available data, both specific to California and the likely HSR extrapolated from the limited experiences of the other states with legal cannabis industries. In addition, a chapter based on this work will be included in The Routledge Handbook of Interdisciplinary Cannabis Research, edited by Humboldt State University.

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