

OHIP 2018

# WORKER AWARENESS OF MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMS AT INL



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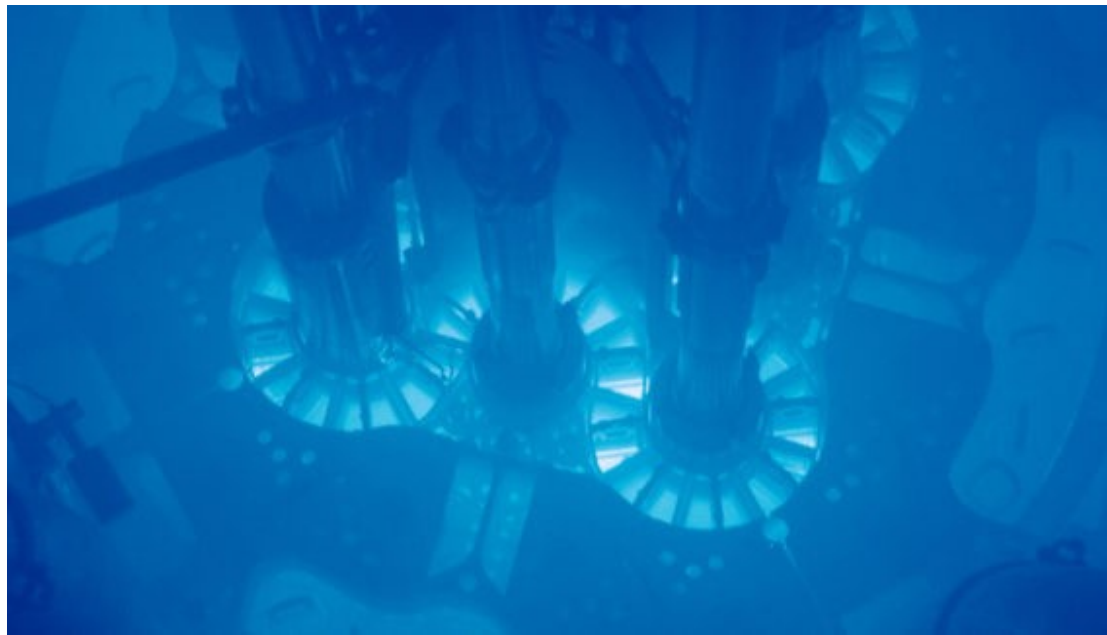
# Overview

INL used as nuclear reactor testing site for 60+ years, beryllium (Be) used as nuclear moderator

Be is carcinogenic & causes disease similar to mesothelioma, very difficult to diagnose without occupational medicine doctor

2 medical programs which screen for Be:

CFR850 - current workers  
WHPP - former workers



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# Objectives



## SURVEY

Design & administer interview & survey to gauge worker awareness & participation in programs

## GIVE-BACK

Produce training module & factsheets to inform workers of programs

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engage with the site, its people, and what it means to work in occ safety & health

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## MIXED-METHODS APPROACH

Constructed semi-structured oral interview

Interview used to filter most important questions for briefer current-worker survey

Demographics, work history, Be/ CBD general knowledge T/F

Brought former workers in for oral interviews, had to rely on union events for written survey

- d. Did you wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when you worked with or around beryllium?
- Yes                       No                       Not sure
- i. What kind of PPE?
- e. Were you ever involved in decontamination of beryllium-contaminated equipment or facilities?
- Yes                       No                       Don't Know
- i. If so, in what years?
- f. Have you ever received any health and safety training about what beryllium is?
- Yes                       No                       Don't Know
- a. IF YES, from where/whom did you receive this information? (check all that apply)

Sample of survey questions

# Results

51 total study  
respondents

3 worksites visited at the  
890 square-mile complex

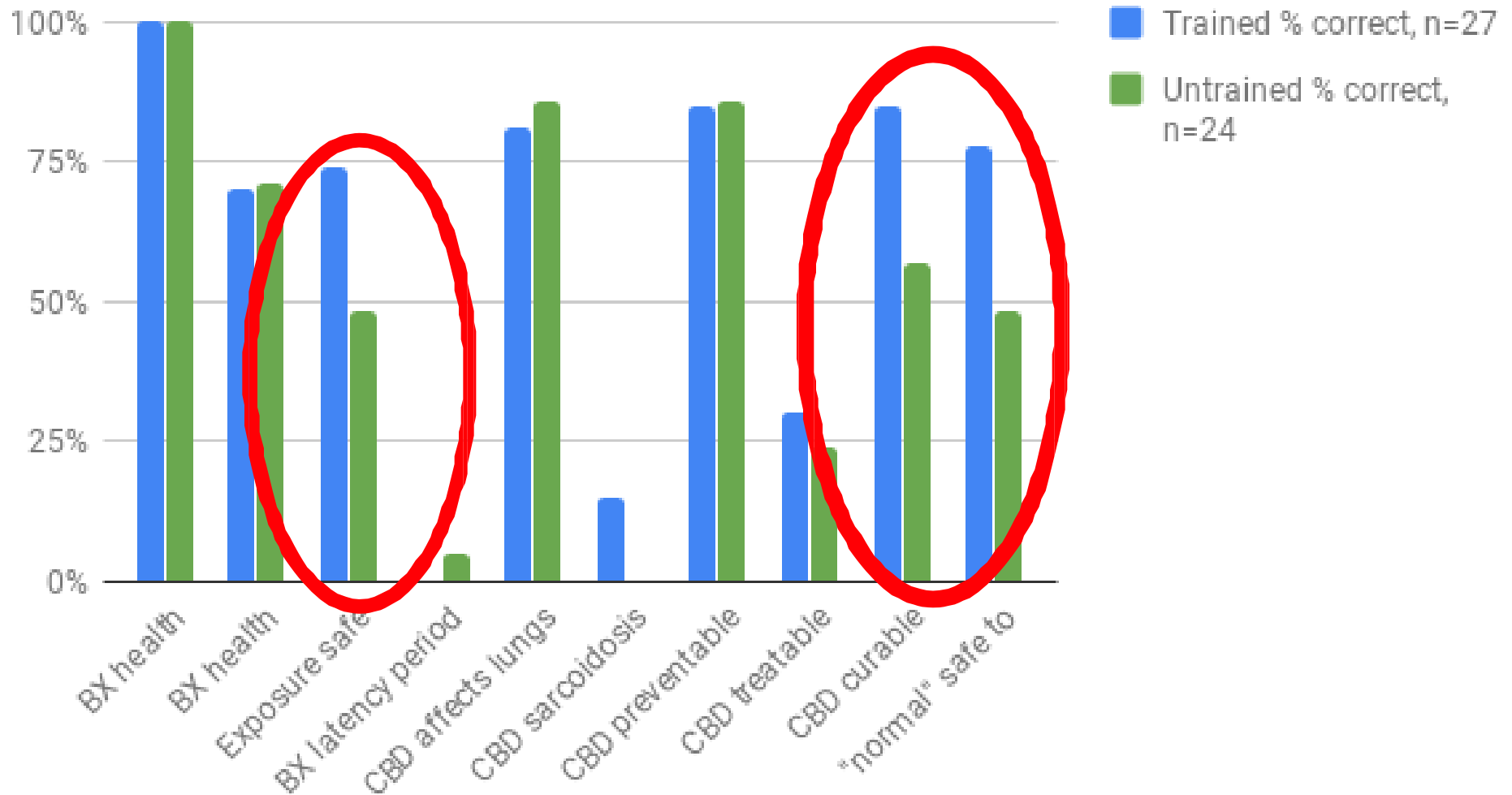
**78%** of workers reported knowing Be's health hazards

**4%** could identify the signs and symptoms of chronic beryllium disease

**45%** aware of CFR850, over half hesitant to participate

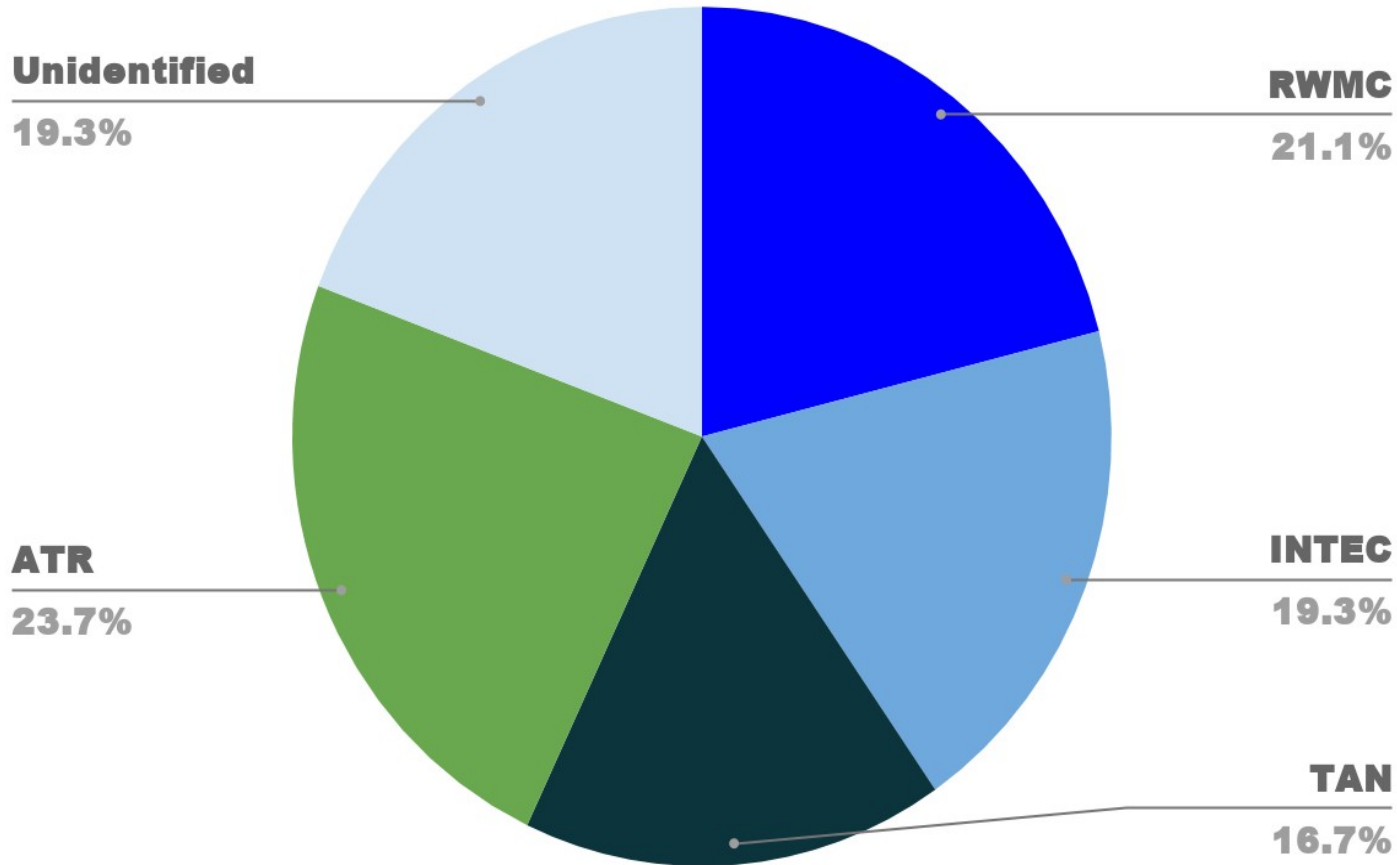
**95%** of respondents aware of WHPP

## Be Knowledge



# Work areas of Beryllium-exposed Respondents

**N = 38**



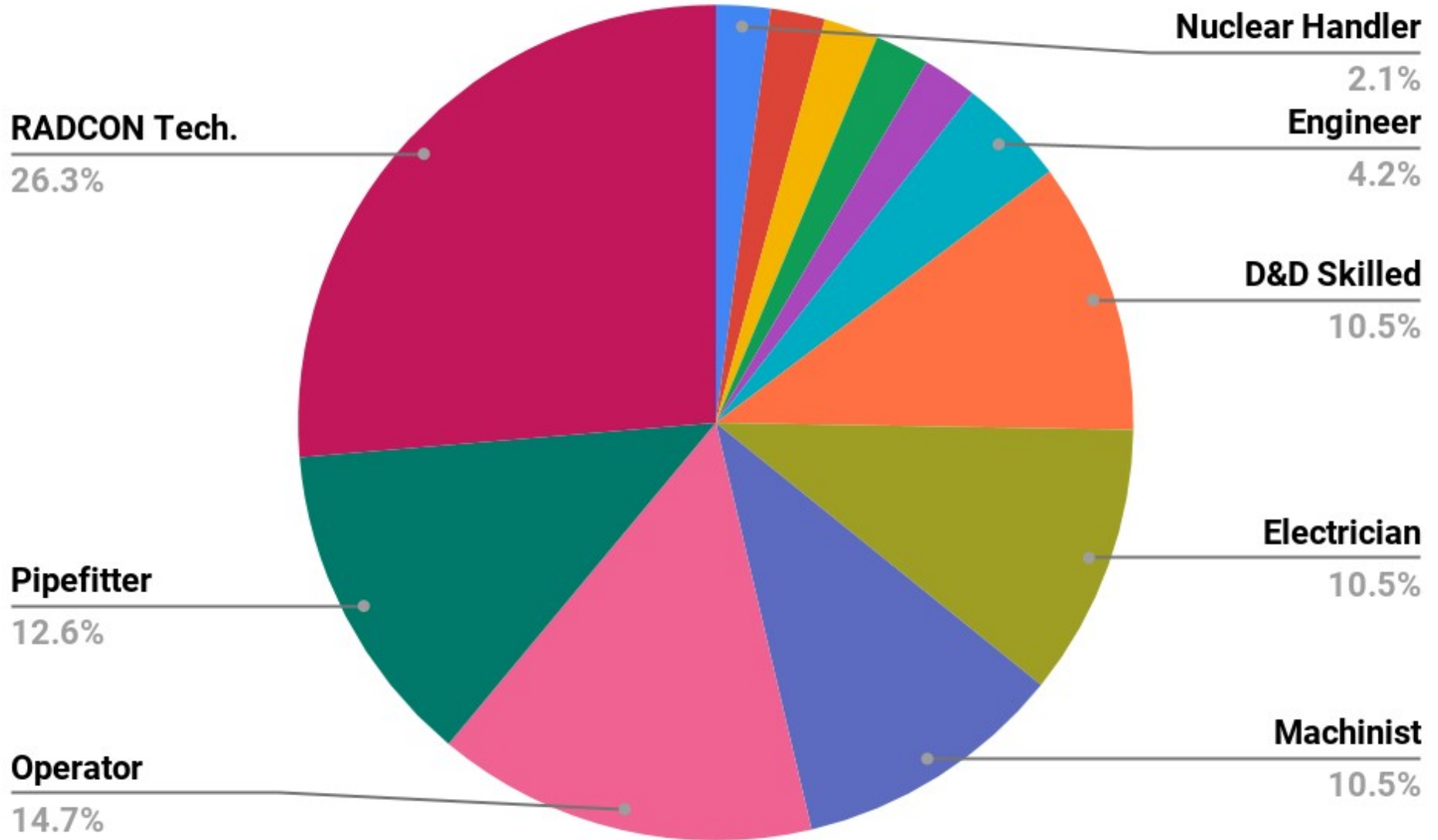
**RWMC = Radioactive Waste Management Complex**

**ATR = Advanced Test Reactor Complex**

**INTEC = Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center**

**TAN = Test Area North**

# Jobs of Beryllium-exposed Respondents - N=38





# Worker Case Study

"I eat, drink, and sleep WHPP."

FORMER INL WORKER AND LOCAL WHPP  
OUTREACH COORDINATOR - GAYLON HANSON

# Successes

Wide variety of respondents

Built rapport

Clarified confusion between CFR850 & WHPP

# Challenges

Results could possibly be due to convenience sampling

Distrust of confidentiality & CFR850

Confusion between CFR850 & WHPP





# Recommendations

## IMPROVING & ENCOURAGING IN- PERSON TRAINING

Workers prefer peer- to-peer training

Small- group role-playing and discussions

## NOTIFYING WORKERS OF NEW HAZARDS

# Givebacks

## FACT SHEET



### WORKER HEALTH PROTECTION PROGRAM (WHPP)

The Worker Health Protection Program, or WHPP (not to be confused with WIPP in Carlsbad, New Mexico), is a medical surveillance program funded by the DOE. It provides free medical screenings for former workers at DOE nuclear facilities regardless of union membership status. Workers are eligible to be screened with WHPP if they have previously worked for more than 30 days at a participating DOE nuclear facility, such as BNL or INEL, or are currently working at/have worked at one of the three Gaseous Diffusion Plants in Paducah, KY, Oak Ridge, TN, or Portsmouth, OH.

#### Overview

If a worker was employed at a participating WHPP site, they may have been exposed to hazardous or radioactive substances. As a result, they may have a greater chance of acquiring certain illnesses. This program enables a worker to be examined by an occupational medicine professional completely free of charge, who can help them determine if exposure to toxic materials may have caused a work-related illness.

#### Services

- WHPP screens for several health problems caused by radiation and chemical exposure which may occur at the workplace, including:
  - Chronic beryllium disease (CBD);
  - Asbestosis;
  - Emphysema;
  - Kidney/liver disease;
  - Hearing loss;
  - Silicosis;
- Contacts participants every 3 years for re-examination;
- Recommend treatment plans and refer patients to specialists
- Assists in filing workers' compensation claims to cover medical expenses and provide those affected with a lump sum.

#### Record Confidentiality

Results of annual exams are kept confidential, and only distributed to a participant's personal physician upon the participant's request. Former and current employers do not get copies of a worker's test results.



For more information about WHPP or to schedule an appointment, contact 1-888-241-1199, (208) 522-4748 for a local appointment, or email [info@worker-health.org](mailto:info@worker-health.org)

3 training modules for new hires, covering Be safety, CFR850, & WHPP

WHPP & CFR850 factsheets & brochures

Natural disaster safety factsheet

Pitch for union-vocational school joint program

# Personal reflections

Hanna

The real-world experience and worker perspectives USW and OHIP imparted upon me have opened my eyes to the world of industrial hygiene & workers' rights. I hope OHIP continues to provide this invaluable service to upcoming generations for years to come.



Bukunmi

There are no words to adequately express my gratitude at having the opportunity to participate in this internship. I hope other students get to experience this wonderful internship.



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