**Nerina Human & Michael White** 



#### **Questions To Be Answered**

- 1. Why are healthy worksites important?
- 2. What is the purpose of the designation?
- 3. What are the designation's criteria?
- 4. How can employers satisfy the criteria?
- 5. How does the qualification/recognition process work?
- 6. What strategies are working to engage employers?



# 3 Major Reasons Why Healthy Worksites Are Important

#### Reason #1

To support the health and well-being of people where they spend so much of their lives.



# 3 Major Reasons Why Healthy Worksites Are Important

#### Reason #2

To slow the alarming and costly rise in chronic health conditions related to lifestyle behavior.



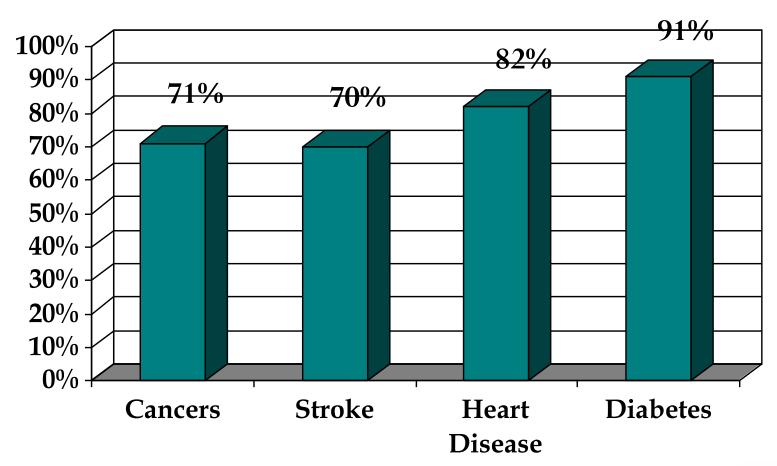
#### **The Bottom Line**

Unhealthy Health Chronic disease

Poor
Health
&
Health
Related
Expenses



#### Percent of Chronic Diseases That Are Caused by Poor Lifestyle



Sources: Stampfer, 2000; Platz, 2000; Hu, 2001



# 3 Major Reasons Why Healthy Worksites Are Important

#### Reason #3

To improve business performance with healthier and higher performing employees.



#### Impact of Poor Health on Employer Costs



Absenteeism 6%

Worker's Comp 9%

Health Care Cost 25% Presenteeism 60%



### **Employer** Benefits of Workplace Wellness

- Morale
- Productivity
- Better consumers of healthcare
- Recruitment
- Retention
- Absenteeism
- Presenteeism
- Disability claims
- Health care utilization
- Premature retirement
- Health benefit costs
- Accidents
- Insurance costs

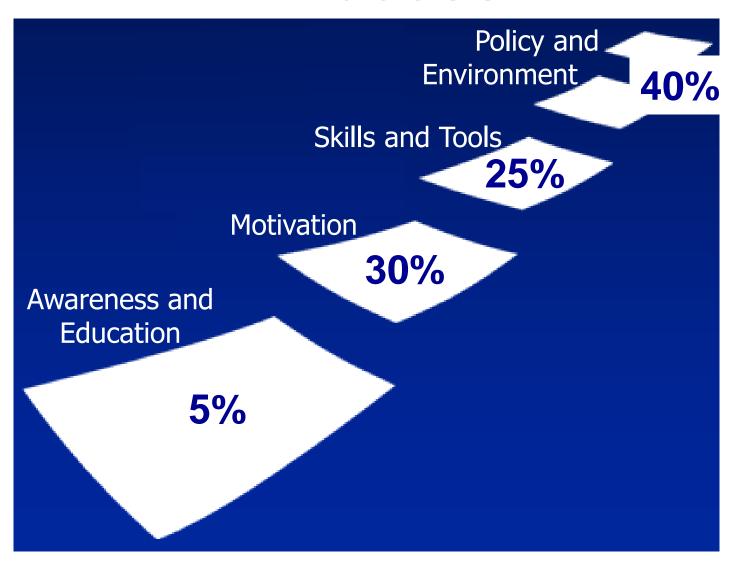


#### **Employee** Benefits of Workplace Wellness

- Increased <u>awareness</u> of healthy lifestyle behaviors
- Better <u>consumer</u> of healthcare services
- Reduced medical <u>expenditures</u>
- Improved <u>quality of life</u> from reduced health risks
- Improved morale in the workplace
- Reduced absences
- Better <u>focus</u> and attention at work
- Reduced pain and suffering from illness, injury and chronic health conditions



### Worksite Behavior Change Process





What is it's purpose?

To engage workplaces in creating a culture of health and well-being that benefits both the employer and employees.



#### **Designation Sponsors Include:**

- The Governor's Council on Health and Physical Fitness
- The Illinois Chamber of Commerce
- The Illinois Department of Public Health
- The University of Illinois at Chicago's Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition

#### "Healthy Worksite" Designation Criteria

#### **BRONZE RECOGNITION**

- 1. Actively promote and support healthy **nutrition** at work.
- 2. Provide and encourage opportunities for physical activity at work.

#### **SILVER RECOGNITION** Bronze status plus . . .

- Develop a 12-month Health & Wellness Calendar and an ongoing communication plan to promote employee health and well-being throughout the year.
- 4. Demonstrate a **commitment** to employee health and well-being by making it part of the organization's mission statement, goals and operations.

#### **GOLD RECOGNITION** Bronze and Silver status plus . . .

 Develop lifestyle and disease management strategies and measure their success annually.

How can employers satisfy the criteria?



#### How does the qualification and recognition process work?

- Evidence submitted by May 1<sup>st</sup>
- Evidence reviewed by U.I.C.'s Dept. of Kinesiology and Nutrition and qualifiers determined
- Statewide announcement of qualifiers and distribution of Certificates of Achievement in June
- July 1<sup>st</sup> Year 2 qualification begins



What strategies are working to engage employers in qualifying for the designation?

- Recruitment of established wellness programs
- Newsletters
- Newspaper articles
- Forums
- Chamber of Commerce events
- Calls and/or Mailings
- Site Visits



Your Questions?

