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Special Session SS035
Occupational Safety and Health Culture

Occupational Health in Argentina Challenges and Opportunities

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Argentina

- Federal Republic
- 8th largest country in the world.
- 2nd largest country in South America
- GDP 2010: U\$S 425 million
- Annual Growth Rate: 7.5%



Argentina is within the denominated “new industrialised countries” with high contrasts between the urban population based on services and industry and the rural population, based on agriculture and cattle.

Legal Framework

- The first legislation on Occupational Health dates from 1915
- Occupational Health and Safety Law
 - Law N° 19.587 (1972)
- Occupational Risks Law
 - Law N° 24.557 (1996)
 - Includes:
 - Prevention
 - Health Care
 - Professional requalification
 - Worker's compensation

The system of prevention, medical care and compensation for accidents at work, commuting (in itinere) accidents and occupational diseases has changed from being optative for employers to the compulsory hiring of private insurance companies

Occupational diseases are listed in a closed list but remain under - reported despite the obligation placed on the employers to notify them

Social Stakeholders and System Players

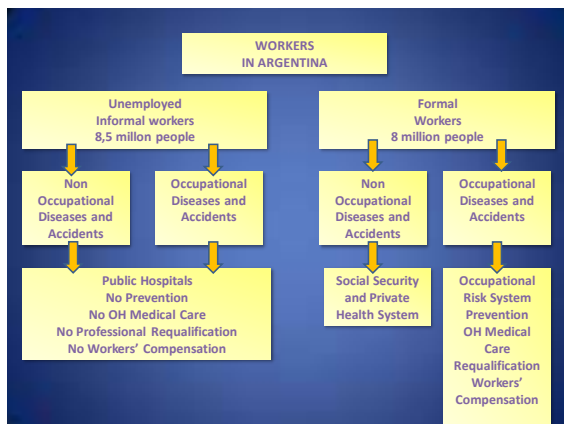
- Government
 - Superintendency of Occupational Risks (Ministry of Labour)
 - Province governments
- Workers
- Employers
- Private Occupational Risk Insurance Companies

Argentina - Data 2010 (2nd trimester)

- Population: 41 million
- Economically Active Population: 16,5 million
 - Unemployed: 1,3 million
 - Employed: 15,2 million
 - Under the Occupational Risk System: 8 million (formal workers)
 - Not covered: 7,2 million (informal workers)

The process of globalization in the 90's and the default declared at the end of 2001 provoked high unemployment and the transfer of a lot of workers from the formal to the informal market

“Cartoneros” Informal Cardboard Collectors



Argentinian Occupational Risk System Coverage 1996- 2011



More than 8,5 million of employees and 862.000 companies have effective coverage

More than 7 million of Argentinian informal workers are not covered by the Occupational Risk System in Argentina

Occupational Health Services for these informal workers should be implemented in Public Hospitals

Many of these informal workers are children

Child Labour



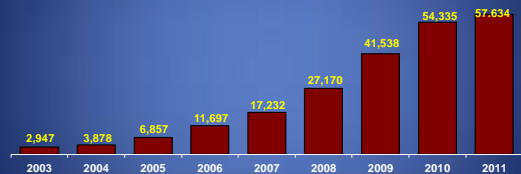
Child Labour



Programs for child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse should be improved

In 2004 some articles of the Argentinian Occupational Risk Law have been declared unconstitutional

Growth in the number of Argentinian Labour Court Cases 2004-2011



Argentinian Parliament has the opportunity to enact a new Occupational Risk Law in order to reduce Labour Court Cases

44% of deaths by Occupational Accidents corresponds to Commuting Accidents



Road and Railway Traffic Safety policies should be implemented in order to reduce the risk of dying in commuting accidents

There are enough Occupational Health Physicians in Argentina but very few nurses

Universities and Medical Schools should foster Occupational Health Nursing careers

The culture of prevention is not well developed in Argentina



Prevention Programs should be included in the kindergarten, elementary school and secondary school levels

Special Prevention Programs should
be developed for informal workers



Argentina in the 21st Century has
many challenges and opportunities
in Occupational Health

Thank you very much
Muchas Gracias

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