Introduction

Occupational safety and health field does not require (by law) for its professionals to complete a degree and/or achieve a license to practice

Little research has been done on how career experience, education, and certification contribute to perception of the OSH field

This was a pilot study, we hope the results generate constructive discussions within OSH professional groups and more research is conducted to better understand how OSH can grow and become better established

Research Questions

Is there a difference in opinion on current and future safety field issues?

Is there a difference in opinion on current establishment/organization and direction the field of safety?

Is there a difference in opinion on the need for degrees/certifications to practice safety?

Methods

Requested participation from 8 ASSE chapter

Five Chapters agreed to participate

Provided member contact Emails or facilitated the delivery of survey invitations via Email

Used “SelectSurvey.NET” (licensed by UWW) to create and manage the online survey

Used a shortened version of the “Tailored Design Method” (TDM) created by Don Dillman for sending out contact Emails to ASSE members

Four Email contacts were sent out over the 2 weeks the survey was open

Exported data to and were analysed by IBM/SPSS Software (UWW general lab license)

For two groups, T-Test statistic (The means of two different groups is analyzed to determine statistical significance)

For more than two groups, ANOVA with Dunnett T3 Post Hoc Test (The means of more than two different groups is analyzed to determine statistical significance)

Results

Probability Value (p) of T-Test and ANOVA with Dunnet T3 Post Hoc Tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>T-Test ANOVA</th>
<th>ANOVA of Additional Risk Experience</th>
<th>ANOVA of Additional Certification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>0.033</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safety vs. Tech</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safety vs. Similar</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety vs. No CSP</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.001</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion

There are significant differences in opinions between safety professionals of varying roles, experience, degrees, disciplines, and certifications on the importance of education, and how safety is practiced. More research still needs to be conducted, but hopefully this will help to reintroduce the topic of education and certification in the field of safety back into the discussions of safety professionals.

Acknowledgements

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