

DATA DISPLAYS CONSTRUCTION'S RENEWED FOCUS ON EMPLOYEE CARE

The construction industry struggles with one of the highest suicide rates of any profession in the U.S., leading to a shift in how companies approach the mental health of their workers. New data from Dodge Construction Network's Civil Quarterly reveals that civil contractors are beginning to take the issues of mental health, company culture, and substance use seriously. However, the industry will still need to put more in place to fully address this issue.

Notably, civil contractors also rank these approaches as the most likely to be effective to promote improved mental health. In addition, training for workers directly addressing mental health issues is also cited as one of the most effective means to take, although it is less widely adopted.

Currently, large companies offer all these means of addressing mental health far more frequently than midsize or small companies. However, apart from offering training, none of these require dedicated internal experts on mental health. Instead, the industry is utilizing many of the tools that exist externally, outside of their companies. This strategy could be more widely utilized by small and midsize companies, if they were more aware of these materials.

The report also features an interview with Dr. John S. Gaal, director of the worker wellness program, MO AFL-CIO's Missouri Works Initiative. In the interview, he discusses many external resources available to contractors. These include:

About the Author

Donna Laquidara-Carr, Ph.D., is industry insights research director at [Dodge Data & Analytics](#), where she provides editorial direction to the SmartMarket Report Series, covering such diverse topics as world green-building trends, the business value of building information modeling, managing risk in the construction industry, the drive toward healthier buildings, building a safety culture, and lean construction. Her insights on these topics have been published in numerous industry publications, and she regularly conducts webinars and speaks about this research at events for diverse organizations, including the AIA National Conference, CMAA National Convention, AGC National Convention, the Lean Congress, Greenbuild, the inaugural WELL Conference, and BOMA.

About the Article

Republished from [Construction Business Owner](#). Construction Business Owner (CBO) is the leading business magazine for contractors and is designed to help owners of construction firms run successful businesses. Founded in 2004, CBO provides real-world business management education and knowledge that is of real value to the owners of construction companies.

Any views and opinions expressed in this article may or may not reflect the views and opinions of the Construction Management Association of America